



SHAKE DOWN



Alaska quake causes major damage in Anchorage

A car is trapped on a collapsed section of the offramp of Minnesota Drive in Anchorage, Friday, Nov. 30, 2018.

Associated Press
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A U.S. Border Patrol detains Honduran migrants after they walked onto U.S. territory from Tijuana, Mexico, Friday, Nov. 30, 2018.
 Associated Press

U.S. to cut troops along Mexico border but extend deployment

By **LOLITA C. BALDOR**
 Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. plans to cut the number of active-duty troops along the border with Mexico but extend the unusual deployment for another 45 days, U.S. officials said Friday.

Overall troop levels assigned to assist the Department of Homeland Security with border enforcement will drop from 5,600 to about 4,000 under a new proposal from the agency to the Pentagon.

Secretary of Defense Jim Mattis was traveling and had not yet signed off on the plan but the Pentagon has been working with DHS on the request and it is expected to get approval, said the officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

President Donald Trump ordered the unusual deployment of active-duty troops to the border in response to a caravan of Central American migrants walking north toward the U.S. Critics dismissed the deployment as a political stunt ahead of the midterm elections.

Most of the troops have been deployed in Texas, far from where the migrants eventually arrived in Tijuana, along the southern border with California. Soldiers

have strung vast amounts of concertina wire and transported Border Patrol agents but have not been engaged in any law enforcement activities, which would be prohibited under U.S. law.

The initial deployment was scheduled to end Dec. 15, but Mattis and other officials had said it could be extended. The new order extends it for 45 days while still allowing about 1,600 troops to return home.

U.S. officials described the new request on condition of anonymity to discuss internal deliberations that had not yet been approved.

A Pentagon spokesman, Lt. Col. Jamie Davis, said the new DHS proposal "refines" the military support so "it remains aligned with the current threat," but declined to give details.

DHS issued a similar statement, citing the "ongoing threat at our southern border."

Homeland Security officials said Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen has also reached out for assistance from other federal agencies.

Politico reported Friday that Nielsen requested help from other departments — including State, Labor, Energy, Transportation, Interior and Justice — to determine whether they have law enforcement personnel they can send to the border.

"The President has made it clear that border security is a top administration priority. In line with the President's direction and given

the very real threat we face at the border from potential mass migration actions — of course, DHS has reached out for assistance from partners across the federal government to defend our sovereignty, protect our frontline men and women, and secure our border," spokeswoman Katie Waldman said.

U.S. officials said the troops at the border will provide support and protection for Border Patrol agents and continue to install and repair wire barriers. In addition, more troops are expected to shift from Texas and Arizona to California.

As of Friday, 2,400 troops were deployed in Texas, 1,800 in California and 1,400 in Arizona.

The troops at the border include combat engineers who can install and repair the concertina wire barriers, helicopter crews to provide transportation, and military police along with other service members who provide support for the troops.

As of last week, the cost of using troops to help secure the border was estimated at \$210 million, but this extension is likely to increase that figure.

That total included \$72 million for approximately 5,900 active-duty troops providing support to Customs and Border Protection, plus \$138 million so far for 2,100 National Guard troops who have been performing a separate border mission since April, according to a report sent to Congress early last week. □

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Back-to-back earthquakes shatter roads and windows in Alaska

By RACHEL D'ORO and DAN JOLING

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)

— Back-to-back earthquakes measuring 7.0 and 5.7 shattered highways and rocked buildings Friday in Anchorage, sending people running into the streets and briefly triggering a warning to residents in Kodiak to flee to higher ground for fear of a tsunami.

The warning was lifted without incident a short time later. There were no immediate reports of any deaths or serious injuries.

The U.S. Geological Survey said the first and more powerful quake was centered about 7 miles (12 kilometers) north of Anchorage, Alaska's largest city, with a population of about 300,000. People ran from their offices or took cover under desks.

"We just hung onto each other. You couldn't even stand," said Sheila Bailey, who was working at a high school cafeteria in Palmer when the quake struck. "It sounded and felt like the school was breaking apart." A large section of an off-ramp near the Anchorage airport collapsed, marooning a car on a narrow island of pavement surrounded by deep chasms in the concrete. Several cars crashed at a major intersection in Wasilla, north of Anchorage, during the shaking. Anchorage Police Chief Justin Doll said he had been told that parts of Glenn Highway, a scenic route that runs northeast out of the city past farms, mountains and glaciers, had "completely disappeared."

The quake broke store windows, opened cracks in a two-story building downtown, disrupted electrical service and disabled traffic lights, snarling traffic. It also threw a full-grown man out of his bathtub.

All flights in and out of the airport were suspended for hours after the quake knocked out telephones and forced the evacuation of the control tower. And the 800-mile Alaska oil pipeline was shut down



An employee walks past a damaged aisle at Anchorage True Value hardware store after an earthquake, Friday morning, Nov. 30, 2018, in Anchorage, Alaska. Tim Craig, owner of the south Anchorage store, said no one was injured but hundreds of items hit the floor and two shelves collapsed in a stock room.

Associated Press

while crews were sent to inspect it for damage.

Anchorage's school system canceled classes and asked parents to pick up their children while it examined buildings for gas leaks or other damage.

Fifteen-year-old Sadie Blake and other members of the Homer High School wrestling team were at an Anchorage school gymnasium waiting for a tournament to start when the bleachers started rocking "like crazy" and the lights went out. People started running down the bleachers in the dark, trying to get out.

"It was a gym full of screams," said team chap-erone Ginny Grimes. When it was over, Sadie said, there was only one thing she could do: "I started crying."

Jonathan Lettow was waiting with his 5-year-old daughter and other children for a school bus near their home in Wasilla when the quake struck. The children got on the ground while Lettow tried to keep them calm.

"It's one of those things where in your head, you

think, 'OK, it's going to stop,' and you say that to yourself so many times in your head that finally you think, 'OK, maybe this isn't going to stop,'" he said.

Soon after the shaking stopped, the school bus pulled up and children boarded, but the driver stopped at a bridge and refused to go across because of deep cracks in the road, Lettow said.

Former Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin tweeted that her home was damaged: "Our family is intact — house is not. I imagine that's the case for many, many others." She posted a video of the inside of her parents' home, with broken dishes littering the kitchen floor. A large set of antlers appeared to have fallen off a wall of the living room.

Officials opened an Anchorage convention center as an emergency shelter. Gov. Bill Walker issued a disaster declaration.

He said he was in an office building elevator when the earthquake hit. Lights on the control board were blinking and things were falling from the ceiling, but the elevator did not stop,

he said.

Cereal boxes and packages of batteries littered the floor of a grocery store, and picture frames and mirrors were knocked from living room walls.

People went back inside after the first earthquake struck, but the 5.7 aftershock about five minutes later sent them running back into the streets. A series of smaller aftershocks followed.

A tsunami warning was issued along Alaska's southern coast. Police in Kodiak, a city of 6,100 people on Kodiak Island, 250 miles (400 kilometers) south of Anchorage). People were told to evacuate to higher ground immediately because a wave could hit within about 10 minutes.

Michael Burgy, a senior technician with the National Tsunami Warning Center in Palmer, Alaska, said the warning was automatically generated based on the quake's size and proximity to shore. Scientists monitored gauges to see if the quake generated big waves. Because there were none, they canceled the warning within about

an hour and a half.

In Kenai, southwest of Anchorage, Brandon Slaton was alone at home and soaking in the bathtub when the earthquake struck. Slaton, who weighs 209 pounds, said it created a powerful back-and-forth sloshing that threw him out of the tub.

His 120-pound mastiff panicked and tried to run down the stairs, but the house was swaying so much that the dog was thrown off its feet and into a wall and tumbled to the base of the stairs, Slaton said.

Slaton ran into his son's room after the shaking stopped and found his fish tank shattered and the fish on the floor, gasping. He grabbed it and put it in another bowl.

"It was anarchy," he said. "There's no pictures left on the walls, there's no power, there's no fish tank left. Everything that's not tied down is broke."

Alaska was the site of the most powerful earthquake ever recorded in the U.S. The 9.2-magnitude quake on March 27, 1964, was centered about 75 miles (120 kilometers) east of Anchorage. It and the tsunami it triggered claimed about 130 lives.

The state averages 40,000 earthquakes a year, with more large quakes than the 49 other states combined. Southern Alaska has a high risk of earthquakes because the Earth's plates slide past each other under the region.

Alaska has been hit by a number of powerful quakes over 7.0 in recent decades, including a 7.9 last January southeast of Kodiak Island. But it is rare for a quake this big to strike so close to such a heavily populated area. David Harper was getting some coffee at a store when the low rumble began and intensified into something that sounded "like the building was just going to fall apart." He ran for the exit with other patrons. "People who were outside were actively hugging each other," he said. "You could tell that it was a bad one." □



In this June 21, 2017, file photo, special counsel Robert Mueller departs after a meeting on Capitol Hill in Washington.

Associated Press

Mueller is back - and so are questions about Trump, Russia

By CHAD DAY

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Robert Mueller is back.

After a quiet few months in the run-up to the midterm elections, the special counsel's Russia investigation is heating up again with a string of tantalizing new details emerging this week.

None of it answers the central question: Did Donald Trump and his campaign coordinate with Russia to help him win America's 2016 presidential election. But the new evidence does make clear that some in Trump's orbit recognized his Russia connections were a problem — so they lied about them.

Mueller has indicated there are more criminal charges to come.

Here's a look at the key lines of inquiry, what we know and what we don't.

WHAT'S THE LATEST?

It's been a busy week.

On Thursday, Michael Cohen, the longtime Trump lawyer and legal fixer, pleaded guilty to lying to Congress about his efforts during the 2016 campaign to line up a Trump Tower Moscow project. The plea was significant because it prominently featured Trump and conversations he and his family had with Cohen about the project. Prosecutors did not accuse Trump or his grown children of any wrongdoing. But Cohen said he lied to be consistent with Trump's "political messaging."

The surprise plea came just days after prosecutors revealed that former Trump campaign chairman Paul Manafort's separate plea deal fell apart over allegations that he lied to investigators, a development that could lead to new charges.

Draft court documents made public this week also revealed that Mueller made a plea offer to Jerome Corsi, a conservative writer and conspiracy theorist. The documents accused Corsi of lying about

his discussions with Trump confidant Roger Stone about WikiLeaks during the 2016 campaign.

American intelligence agencies and Mueller have said Russia was the source of hacked material released by WikiLeaks during the campaign that damaged Hillary Clinton's presidential effort. Mueller's office is trying to determine whether Corsi and Stone had advance knowledge of WikiLeaks' plans.

Corsi has denied lying and rejected the plea offer. Stone has also denied having any contact with WikiLeaks or knowledge of its plans.

WHAT DO WE KNOW FOR SURE?

There were a lot of contacts between Russia and people close to Trump. And the Kremlin mounted a large-scale operation that sought to hurt Hillary Clinton and help Trump, according to Mueller and U.S. intelligence agencies. In public court filings, Mueller has woven a narrative of events that he believes are significant. They include contacts between a little-known campaign foreign policy adviser and Russian intermediaries, conversations the president and his family had with Cohen about a proposed Trump Tower Moscow and contacts between senior advisers in Trump's incoming administration and Russian officials during the transition period.

Much of that has become public because key participants — Cohen, ex-National Security Adviser Michael Flynn and ex-Trump campaign foreign policy adviser George Papadopoulos — lied to federal agents about it.

WHAT REMAINS UNKNOWN?

Mueller has yet to answer definitively the central questions in the Russia probe.

Did any Trump associates coordinate with Russia in an attempt to sway the

2016 presidential election? And did the president cross the line and obstruct justice in his efforts to stymie the Russia investigation?

Mueller's team is also intently focused on WikiLeaks and whether anyone close to Trump or his campaign knew in advance about the group's plans to release the material hacked by Russia.

WHO HAS BEEN ACCUSED OF CRIMES?

Thirty-three people and three companies.

Since Mueller's appointment in May 2017, he's obtained guilty pleas from seven people including five involved in the Trump campaign. Flynn and Papadopoulos both admitted to lying about their contacts with Russians or Russian intermediaries.

Mueller also brought a series of charges against Manafort over undisclosed foreign lobbying on behalf of Ukraine and millions of dollars that were never reported to the IRS. Manafort was convicted by a jury of eight felony counts. His right-hand man, Rick Gates, took a plea deal, and Mueller brought obstruction charges against Konstantin Kilimnik, a Manafort associate who prosecutors say has ties to Russian intelligence.

In addition, Mueller has brought sweeping indictments against Russians. That includes charging 13 Russians and three companies with orchestrating a covert effort to flood American social media with disinformation to sow discord during the U.S. election campaign. One company is fighting the charges. Twelve Russian intelligence officers were also accused of hacking Democratic organizations during the 2016 campaign.

WHAT ABOUT TRUMP?

The president is angry to the point of boiling about the Mueller probe — and he's hinted he may do something about it. □

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Fire-scarred California areas escape large-scale rain damage

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A major storm brought localized mudslides and street flooding to California and some people had to be rescued from stranded vehicles, but fire-scarred areas escaped large-scale damage.

Water from flash floods receded in Northern California and crews on Friday cleared debris from roads, culverts and levees that flooded in Chico, said Butte County spokeswoman Kelly Hubbard.

Debris flowed downhill from Paradise, a town destroyed by a wildfire three weeks ago, to Chico during a

downpour Thursday that dumped 1½ inches (3.8 centimeters) of rain in an hour, the National Weather Service said.

The heavy rain inundated roads, trapping people in about 100 vehicles and forcing some mandatory evacuations in Chico, a city of 90,000 where many of the fire evacuees from Paradise are staying.

All roads that were closed during the emergency were opened by Friday, and the Butte County Sheriff's Office said mandatory evacuations for homes in low-lying areas had been reduced to evacuation

warnings. Light showers are forecast for later Friday in the Sierra Nevada, where snow is expected in lower elevations, according to the weather service, which issued a winter storm warning for the Sierra that will go into effect Friday night through Saturday morning. All evacuation orders were lifted for residents near a Southern California wildfire burn scar.

Authorities in Orange and Riverside counties removed the restrictions Friday morning as fair weather returned following a storm that brought heavy rains to a mountainous area burned



A mudslide trapped several vehicles along Valley of the Falls Drive in Forest Falls in San Bernardino County, Calif., on Thursday, Nov. 29, 2018.

Associated Press

earlier this year.

Elsewhere in the region, the city of Malibu reports that all but one of the streets hit by a mudslide Thursday have been reopened.

The National Weather Ser-

vice says Southern California has a chance of rain Saturday from a weaker system, and another storm is forecast to affect the region Wednesday and Thursday. □

Top lieutenant to 'El Chapo' sentenced to life in prison

By MATTHEW BARAKAT

Associated Press

FALLS CHURCH, Va. (AP) — A top lieutenant to drug kingpin Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman was sentenced in a Virginia courtroom Friday to life in prison.

Damaso Lopez, a leader in Mexico's Sinaloa drug cartel, pleaded guilty in September in an Alexandria federal court to drug trafficking charges after being extradited from Mexico earlier this year.

The life sentence was expected after both sides agreed to a life term as part of a plea bargain.

In court papers, Lopez admitted he was a senior leader in the Sinaloa cartel and controlled a faction with hundreds of men. He admitted using "sicarios," or hitmen, to conduct murders to further the cartel's interest and move tons of cocaine and other drugs throughout the Americas.

Lopez's sentencing comes

as Guzman is facing his own trial in New York.

It is unclear whether Lopez, Guzman's right-hand man, would be called to testify at Guzman's trial. The publicly available court documents from the plea agreement do not include a requirement for cooperation, as they usually would. But several documents in the case remain under seal.

Also, while Lopez has been sentenced to life, it is a relatively common practice at the federal courthouse in Alexandria for prosecutors to file a post-sentence motion seeking reduction of a sentence for defendants who provide substantial cooperation on other cases. In court papers, prosecutors said the cartel generated billions of dollars in illegal profits.

"Simply put, the defendant had a leadership role in the Sinaloa Cartel, the largest and most violent drug trafficking organization in the

world," prosecutors wrote. "It would be hard to imagine a more egregious drug offense."

Mexican authorities arrested Lopez — known as "El

Licenciado," which is a title for college graduates — at an apartment in Mexico City last year. Authorities say that arrest led to the collapse of his faction with-

in the cartel.

Defense attorneys did not return calls and emails seeking comment.

Lopez was also ordered to forfeit \$25 million. □

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St. Louis indictments seen as glimpse of police mindset

By JIM SALTER
Associated Press

ST. LOUIS (AP) — The indictment of four St. Louis police officers provides a troubling glimpse into the mindset of officers who were eager to rough up protesters during a tumultuous period in 2017, civil rights leaders said Friday.

The federal indictment announced Thursday accuses officers Dustin Boone, Randy Hays and Christopher Myers of attacking an undercover colleague during a 2017 protest, not knowing he was an officer, and trying to obstruct the investigation. Officer Bailey Colletta was accused of lying to a federal grand jury.

St. Louis was besieged by protests after the Sept. 15, 2017, acquittal of Jason Stockley, a white former police officer charged in the 2011 death of a black man, Anthony Lamar Smith. Stockley claimed Smith, 24, had a gun and he fired in self-defense; prosecutors said Stockley planted the weapon in Smith's car at the end of a pursuit.

Two nights after the acquittal, demonstrators broke windows and turned over flower pots downtown. Police eventually used a technique known as "kettling" to make 123 arrests. In kettling, police form barriers and gradually move in on suspects.

Protest and civil rights leaders said many of those caught up in the kettle were peaceful protesters, journalists and onlookers. Police were accused of brutalizing and taunting many of those arrested.



In this Sept. 17, 2017 file photo, police chase vandals as demonstrators march in response to a not guilty verdict in the trial of former St. Louis police officer Jason Stockley in St. Louis.

Associated Press

The indictment said electronic messages shared between the accused officers expressed disdain for protesters and excitement "about using unjustified force against them and going undetected while doing so."

Several of the messages cited in the indictment were attributed to Boone. On the day of Stockley's acquittal, Boone allegedly wrote, "The more the merrier!!! It's gonna get IGNORANT tonight!! But it's gonna be a lot of fun beating the hell out of these (expletives) once the sun goes down and nobody can tell us apart!!!!"

Critics have long raised concerns that many officers removed name tags during the protests, making identification difficult.

"The text messages confirm our suspicions that these

officers were using the anonymity of their SWAT uniforms and face masks after removing their name tags so that they could beat citizens with impunity," said Javad Khazaeli, an attorney whose law firm has filed suit against police on behalf of 23 people arrested in protests.

Later on Sept. 15, 2017, Boone allegedly wrote, "We really need these (expletives) to start acting up so we can have some fun." The Rev. Darryl Gray, a black activist who organized many of the Stockley protests, believes other officers not named in the indictment had similar attitudes toward demonstrators.

"Those three made it very clear that it wasn't just a discussion, it was an attitude," Gray said. "They were going to act out their aggres-

sion, they were going to act out their violence, they were going to act out their disregard for the law and the civil liberties and rights of people."

The indicted officers were part of the police department's Civil Disobedience Team, which included more than 200 officers responding to the protests.

A 22-year police veteran identified only as L.H. also was part of the team, but working undercover. The indictment accused Boone, Hays and Myers of throwing L.H. to the ground, hitting him with a baton, kicking him. A police spokeswoman said the undercover officer is still with the department but wouldn't say if he has recovered from his injuries.

All four officers made their first court appearances Friday. The St. Louis Post-Dis-

patch reported they were shackled at the wrists and ankles. They were released on their own recognizance but U.S. Magistrate Judge Noelle Collins told them to remove any guns from their homes within 24 hours. Attorneys for the officers declined comment.

Meanwhile, Democratic state Sen. Jamilah Nasheed of St. Louis called for the Missouri Department of Public Safety to suspend the officers' licenses immediately.

"I am appalled by the unethical, out of control, and vicious behavior of these officers. The text messages released last night show these individuals were more interested in terrorizing our community than protecting it," Nasheed, who is black, said in a statement. Police Chief John Hayden said in a statement he was "deeply disappointed" by the allegations, but they are "in no way reflective of the hard work and dedication exhibited by the men and women of our Department who serve the community on a daily basis with integrity and honor."

Tony Rothert, legal director of the ACLU of Missouri, urged St. Louis leaders to "address this rampant lawlessness by its police."

"While these officers have been indicted for illegally abusing an undercover officer they mistook for a protester, there has still been no real accountability for the individuals officers who engaged in the same behavior toward protesters," Rothert said in a statement. □

Grand jury: Dallas officer's shooting of neighbor was murder

By RYAN TARINELLI

Associated Press

DALLAS (AP) — A white former Dallas police officer was indicted on a murder charge Friday, nearly three months after she fatally shot an unarmed black neighbor whose apartment she said she entered by mistake, believing it to be her own.

Amber Guyger told fellow officers that she opened fire when Botham Jean appeared in the darkness.

Jean's relatives joined the district attorney for the announcement of the charge. Jean, a 26-year-old native of the Caribbean island nation of St. Lucia, attended college in Arkansas and had been working in Dallas for accounting and consulting firm PwC.

"I truly believe that she inflicted tremendous evil on my son," Jean's mother, Allison said after the announcement. "He didn't deserve it. He was seated in his own apartment."

Guyger was arrested on a manslaughter charge three days after the Sept. 6 shooting, prompting criticism that the original charge was too lenient. But Johnson said at the time that the grand jury could upgrade the charge, which it did Friday.

"When you look at the facts of this case, we thought

that it was murder all along," Dallas County District Attorney Faith Johnson said.

After finishing her shift, Guyger told investigators, she returned home in uniform and parked on the fourth floor of her apartment complex's garage, rather than the third floor, where her unit was located, according to an affidavit prepared by the Texas Rangers.

She said she got to what she thought was her apartment — Jean's was directly above hers — and found the door ajar. She opened it to find a figure standing in the darkness. She said she pulled her gun and fired twice after the person ignored her commands.

Guyger has since been fired from the department, and Jean's family has filed a lawsuit against Guyger and the city of Dallas. The federal suit argues that Guyger used excessive force in the shooting and contends the department did not give her adequate training.

The circumstances of the shooting sparked outrage and led many to question Guyger's account. Critics, including Jean's family, also wondered why it took three days for Guyger to be charged, why she was not taken into custody imme-

diately after the shooting and whether race played a factor in her decision to use deadly force.

After the indictment was issued, Guyger turned herself in and posted bond a second time. She had been free on bond since her arrest.

With the murder charge, she faces up to life in prison if convicted. A manslaughter charge would have brought a sentence of up to 20 years.

Her attorney, Robert Rogers, said he was not surprised by the indictment, citing the political pressure surrounding the case and a wave of "vindictive emotion" targeting his client. He said Jean's mother testified before the grand jury, which he described as

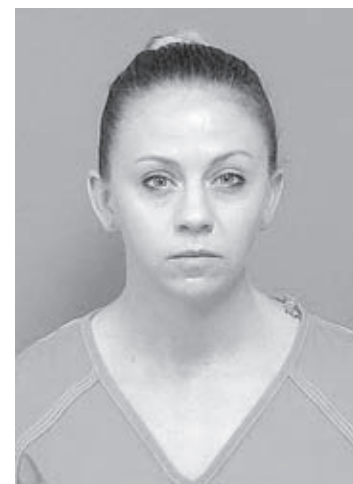
highly unusual.

Dallas Police Chief Renee Hall said her department continues "to feel anguish" over the shooting. She described it as a "tragic event" and asked people to pray for Jean's family.

Jean's killing thrust Dallas into the national conversation about the intersection of race and law enforcement, a dialogue revived by the high-profile trials of officers charged with murder in police shootings.

In October, white Chicago officer Jason Van Dyke was found guilty of second-degree murder in the 2014 on-duty shooting of black teenager Laquan McDonald. Van Dyke shot McDonald 16 times.

And in August, white former Dallas-area officer Roy Oli-



This undated photo provided by the Mesquite Police Department shows Amber Guyger.

Associated Press

ver was convicted of murder for firing into a car filled with black teenagers leaving a house party in 2017. Fifteen-year-old Jordan Edwards was fatally shot. □

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- Maintain and update HR procedures & stay updated on labor laws and ensure company compliance
- Liaison with accounting on payroll, and other issues
- Interest in community involvement projects & sustainability
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Talks collapse between French protesters and prime minister

By SYLVIE CORBET
ELAINE GANLEY

Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — A planned meeting between France's prime minister and a team of representatives of a nationwide protest movement collapsed Friday amid threats from some demonstrators and after a request to broadcast the talks live was rejected.

The fiasco came on the eve of protests planned Saturday across France, including on Paris' Champs-Elysees avenue, where a demonstration last weekend turned violent. Shopkeepers on Friday prepared for the worst, barricading their boutiques.

The "yellow jackets" movement, heading into its third week, was triggered by rising fuel taxes but has grown to include an array of demands, becoming a major challenge to President Emmanuel Macron. So far, he has not backed down on scheduled fuel tax increases meant to wean France off fossil fuels.

"Yellow jackets" is a reference to the fluorescent security jackets worn by the protesters.

Jason Herbert said he cut short his meeting with Prime Minister Edouard Philippe after his request for a live



In this Nov. 19, 2018 file photo, protesters known as the yellow jackets, wave a French flag and a poster reading "Free toll" as they open the toll gates on a motorway in Antibes, southern France.

Associated Press

transmission of the encounter was refused. Another protester remained, spending an hour with the prime minister but choosing to remain anonymous.

Philippe said later that his talks with the remaining protester were useful and his door was open if the "yellow jackets" choose representatives.

"So as not to betray anyone, I didn't want to take part in a discussion," Herbert said, reflecting the complex nature of the

grassroots movement with no leaders.

The eight-member delegation set to meet the prime minister "no longer exists," he said.

"We have all received enormous pressure ... threats, be they verbal or physical," Herbert said. "Our lives are still at stake." He said that 89 percent of the threats he received came from other "yellow jackets who maybe thought we were there for the glory."

He described those proffer-

ing threats as people "terribly hopeless, terribly miserable (who) lost everything (because) everything was taken from them."

Meanwhile, shopkeepers on Paris' Champs-Elysees scrambled to prepare for possible new violence, bringing in workers to barricade boutique windows with boards. Decorative iron grates, used last week in barricades, were removed from around trees and outdoor terraces dismantled.

"It's as if there was a war. It's incredible," said Paris resident Olivier Le Quellec. "We are sealing off the center of the village. It becomes a little ghetto. It's frightening." Motorists protesting a fuel tax hike have been joined by farmers, white collar workers, retirees and others in the "yellow jackets" movement that now involves a broad range of demands related to the country's high cost of living. Their list of demands includes tax cuts, the creation of a citizens' assembly, state-funded subsidies to help companies boost hiring, and higher pensions and a higher national minimum wage.

A spokesman for France's Union of National Police Chiefs said it was critical to be prepared for Saturday's events. "We can't be naive. Tomorrow is a day of risks," David Le Bars said on BFMTV. The protests began to gain traction in neighboring Belgium as well, with dozens of "yellow jacket" demonstrators angry about high taxes and living costs causing traffic chaos in Brussels on Friday. They gathered near the Belgian government and the parliament, as police watched on with water cannon trucks parked nearby. □

Bosnian Srebrenica commander acquitted of war crimes



Former Bosnian Army commander of Srebrenica Naser Oric, center, escorted as he leaves court in Sarajevo, Bosnia, Friday, Nov. 30, 2018.

Associated Press

By ELDAR EMRIC
Associated Press

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AP) — A Bosnian appeals court on Friday

acquitted the wartime commander of Srebrenica who was accused of committing atrocities during the 1992-95 Balkan conflict.

Naser Oric was accused of killing three Serb prisoners of war in villages around Srebrenica in the early days of the conflict. His wartime deputy commander, Saba-hudin Muhic, was also acquitted on the same charges.

The acquittal triggered angry reactions from Serbian officials.

"The fact that somebody was not sentenced for political reasons does not mean that he did not commit crimes," Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic said, adding that it is "obvious that for us Serbs there will be no justice."

Serbian Defense Minister Aleksandar Vulin said that the "acquittal of the proven

killer" means that all those who murdered Serbs during the Bosnian war are being pardoned.

Oric is seen as a hero by many Muslim Bosnians for his role in defending Srebrenica where around 8,000 Muslims men and boys were massacred by Serb forces in 1995.

The Srebrenica massacre, the worst single atrocity in Europe since World War II, was defined as genocide by the U.N. tribunal in the Hague, Netherlands.

Serb officials continue to claim the slaughter was an act of revenge after soldiers under Oric's command killed thousands of Serbs in the villages surrounding the eastern town.

Hundreds of Oric's supporters, chanting "hero, not a war criminal," gathered in front of the courthouse during the verdict's announcement. Police guarded a bus that drove Serbs to the trial, which opened in January 2016.

A panel of judges ruled that the prosecution didn't present evidence proving the case against Oric.

Oric's lawyer Lejla Covic said the acquittal was expected.

"We are absolutely satisfied," she said.

This was the second time that Oric was acquitted in a trial. Oric had also been tried by the U.N. war crimes tribunal where he was also acquitted in 2008. □

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Cowboys stifle Brees, end Saints' 10-game win streak, 13-10

By SCHUYLER DIXON

AP Pro Football Writer

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) —

Dak Prescott desperately scrambled for a first down in a game of fourth-quarter keepaway, then took three knees starting from the New Orleans 1 to run out the clock by the narrowest possible margin.

Anything to keep Drew Brees and the NFL's highest-scoring offense on the sideline.

Ezekiel Elliott scored the only Dallas touchdown on a 16-yard screen pass and the Cowboys stifled Brees and the Saints, ending New Orleans' 10-game winning streak with a 13-10 victory Thursday night.

The Cowboys (7-5) won their fourth consecutive game and assured they will at least remain tied for the NFC East lead.

The Saints (10-2) were shut out in the first half, had their fewest points in three years and finished with a season-low 176 yards. They missed a chance to perfectly match Dallas from two years ago, when then-rookie sensations Elliott and Prescott won 11 straight after dropping the opener.

"Everybody knew it. We had to keep the ball away from Brees," Cowboys owner and general manager Jerry Jones said. "We needed to play this kind of game. I must tell you, the defense played beyond my expectations. They played like a championship defense."

Brees had his fewest yards passing in a first half since joining the Saints in 2006 with 39, and couldn't get a potential winning drive go-

ing in the final minutes.

Instead, Jourdan Lewis' interception — just the third for Brees while he became the NFL's first with at least 30 TD passes in 10 seasons — gave the Cowboys a chance to run out the clock from the New Orleans 1 after an interference penalty in the end zone. Brees said he was trying to throw the ball away behind pass-catching back Alvin Kamara, who cut outside just as Brees threw it and Lewis dove forward, barely keeping the ball off the ground. "As an offense, we think complementary football," Brees said. "Let's put together a drive. Let's keep our defense off the field. Let's control the game, control the clock, control the ball. Just never felt like we really did that as an offense like we've done this year."

The Cowboys spent the fourth quarter trying to protect their three-point lead, with Prescott breaking several tackles on an 11-yard scramble on third-and-10 and Cole Beasley catching a third-down pass and diving for 5 yards on third-and-5.

But Prescott fumbled on his season-high seventh sack with Dallas in position for at least a field goal, giving Brees another chance from his 15 with more than two minutes remaining.

Brees' interception came two plays later, then Marshon Lattimore was called for interference against Amari Cooper in the end zone, giving Dallas a first down at the 1 with 1:58 remaining.

The Cowboys had just

enough time to end the game, with the play clock matching the game clock down to zero after Prescott took a knee for the third time.

Brees was 18 of 28 for 127 yards, actually the second straight game and third overall under 200 yards for the MVP contender. The running game didn't do much either, with Kamara getting 36 yards rushing while the Saints had 65 as a team after averaging 177 the previous four games. The only touchdown drive for the Saints was aided by three first downs on Dallas penalties. The biggest was Randy Gregory's roughing-the-punter penalty on Thomas Morstead.

Two plays later, Brees dropped a deep throw to a backpedaling Keith Kirkwood in the end zone for a 30-yard score to get New Orleans within 13-10.

Prescott had 194 of his 248 yards passing while helping the Cowboys to a 13-0 half-time lead — the first scoreless first half for the Saints since 2014, also against the Cowboys, and their first deficit in five games.

Elliott had 136 scrimmage yards with 76 rushing and 60 receiving on six catches. **MATCHING ZEKE, RAISING HIM \$2**

After forcing and recovering a fumble by Cooper in the first half, Lattimore ran to one of the giant red Salvation Army kettles behind an end zone, pulled \$23 out of his uniform and dropped it in. Lattimore is No. 23. In the Thanksgiving game a week earlier, Elliott (No. 21) dropped \$21 into the other



New Orleans Saints quarterback Drew Brees (9) is pressured by Dallas Cowboys defensive tackle Tyrone Crawford (98) as he passes during the second half of an NFL football game, in Arlington, Texas, Thursday, Nov. 29, 2018.

Associated Press

kettle on the same end of the field.

GIL BRANDT IN RING OF HONOR

The Cowboys inducted former director of player personnel Gil Brandt into the team's ring of honor at half-time. The 85-year-old joins former coach Tom Landry and former general manager Tex Schramm, both deceased, in the 22-person group. Those three held their titles for the franchise's first 29 years before Jerry Jones bought the team. Jones fired Landry immediately, and Schramm resigned less than two months later. Jones fired Brandt after the owner and general manager's first draft in 1989. Brandt has been nominat-

ed as a contributor for next year's voting for the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

THIS AND THAT

New Orleans DT David Onyemata had his first two sacks of the season in the first half. ... Kirkwood's TD was the second of his career, and second in as many weeks. ... Cooper had eight catches for 75 yards, and rookie Michael Gallup had five for 76, highlighted by a 40-yarder to set up the first of Brett Maher's two field goals.

UP NEXT

Saints: At Tampa Bay on Dec. 9 in second of three straight road games.

Cowboys: Philadelphia on Dec. 9 in last of three straight home games.

For Israel, a rearmed Hezbollah in Lebanon is top concern

By ARON HELLER
Associated Press
ON THE ISRAEL-LEBANON BORDER (AP) — On a moonlit night, some two dozen Israeli soldiers in full battle gear march near a Lebanese border village with a bomb-sniffing dog, searching for explosives and infiltrators. Suddenly the force stops. Through night-vision goggles, two suspicious men appear over the ridge, holding what looks like binoculars. Could they be undercover Hezbollah guerrillas? Lebanese soldiers on a night patrol? Or perhaps U.N. peacekeepers?

The men appear unarmed and since they are on the other side of the internationally recognized "blue line" that separates the two countries, Israeli troops move on, completing another routine foot patrol along a scenic frontier that has remained quiet but tense since the bloody battles of a 2006 summer war. Even with attention currently focused on Gaza militants along the southern front, Israel's main security concerns lie to the north, along the border with Lebanon.

Israeli officials have long warned the threat posed by Gaza's Hamas rulers pales in comparison to that of Lebanon's Iran-backed Hezbollah militant group — a heavily-armed mini-army with valuable combat experience and an arsenal of some 150,000 rockets that can reach nearly every part of Israel.

It's along this northern front that Israeli soldiers come face-to-face with Hezbollah guerrillas and where any skirmish could spark an all-out war.

"The rules of the game are very clear. They know I'm here and I know they're there," said Lt. Col. Aviv, a regional battalion commander. "But if they break that equation, they are going to get hit."

From his base along the border near the Israeli farming community of Avivim, he can see the hilltop Lebanese village of Maroun al-Ras, a U.N. observer



In this Friday, June 8, 2018, file photo, Israeli soldiers patrols near the area where Hezbollah held a rally to mark al-Quds (Jerusalem) Day, at the village of Maroun el-Rass on the Lebanon-Israel border, south Lebanon.

outpost and a new square house inside an agricultural field, assumed to be a Hezbollah lookout.

Under the U.N.-brokered cease-fire that ended the 2006 war, Hezbollah's troops are prohibited from approaching the border. But Israeli intelligence says Hezbollah men operate freely, generally unarmed and in civilian clothes. Sometimes they come within just a few meters (feet) of the Israeli troops, it says. Only a coil of barbed wire separates them but there are no interactions.

"They are very disciplined soldiers. They won't initiate anything," said Aviv, who can only be identified by his first name under military regulations.

When Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu recently decided against a full-scale offensive in Gaza, he cited the current "security-sensitive period" in what was widely assumed to be a reference to the northern front.

Israel has generally refrained from engaging in Syria's civil war, where Hezbollah has fought fiercely alongside President Bashar Assad's troops, though it has carried out scores of airstrikes against what Israel says were Iranian shipments of advanced weapons

bound for Hezbollah.

Until recently, Israel flew its jets through Syrian skies with impunity. But that was severely restricted after a Russian plane was downed in September by Syrian forces responding to an Israeli air strike, a friendly fire incident that stoked Russian anger toward Israel and hastened the delivery of sophisticated S-300 air defense systems to Syria.

With Syria's civil war winding down, an empowered Hezbollah is now free to re-establish itself back home in Lebanon and refocus on Israel, said Eyal Ben-Reuven, a lawmaker and retired general who commanded Israeli ground troops in the 2006 war. Armed with more exact rockets and munitions, Hezbollah now poses a far more dangerous threat, he said.

"A terror organization, unlike a country, doesn't stockpile weapons for deterrence but in order to use them one day," he said. "I suspect they will now try to goad Israel. ... The war the Israeli military has to prepare for is the one against Hezbollah."

Neither side appears interested quite yet in another full-fledged confrontation like the monthlong 2006 war, which ended in stalemate and in which more

than 1,200 Lebanese and 160 Israelis were killed.

With a lagging economy and a paralyzed government, Lebanon appears unlikely to have the stomach for another war. Though emboldened politically from the Syria war and having surged in power in Lebanese parliamentary elections earlier this year, Hezbollah is going through a financial crunch. It also is recovering after having hundreds of fighters killed or wounded in Syria.

Still, Israel accuses it of ratcheting up tensions.

The military says it recently uncovered militant surveillance outposts along the border, set up under the guise of a tree-planting campaign by an environmental advocacy group, "Green Without Borders." The group acknowledges its affiliation with Hezbollah but says its work is purely environmental.

Netanyahu also accused Hezbollah of setting up secret rocket launching sites near Beirut's international airport. The military says Hezbollah is establishing new launching sites among civilians — a trap that could make it difficult for Israel to respond forcefully.

But the military says its major concern is Iranian-backed efforts to convert some of

Hezbollah's unguided rockets into precision munitions that could wreak far more devastation on Israeli targets.

Hezbollah declined to respond to the accusations. Its leader, Hassan Nasrallah, said recently the group is "more confident than ever" and ready for war at any time.

On the ground, the potential for trouble is clear. Israel occupied parts of southern Lebanon before withdrawing in 2000 to the U.N.-demarcated "blue line." But Lebanon and Hezbollah have disputed parts of the U.N. map, and an official border has never been agreed on by the two enemy countries.

Due to the uneven terrain, Israel's sophisticated northern fence does not run precisely along the border, creating enclaves of Israeli territory that are inside the blue line but beyond the fence.

Israel had previously neglected these areas and its troops were ambushed there in 2006. Now it's stepping up its presence, fortifying fences and clearing away brush to improve observation.

It's also sending a signal that violations won't be tolerated — even on a night patrol, Israeli troops don't hide their presence.

"I have an interest that they see I'm here," said Lt. Col. Aviv, a bullet loaded in the chamber of his modified M-16 rifle. "There are no surprises." □



Japanese prince wants royals to fund Shinto rite, not public

By MARI YAMAGUCHI

Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — Japan's Prince Akishino said a highly religious ritual that is part of next year's succession ceremonies should be paid for privately by the Imperial family, and questioned the government's decision to use public money.

Emperor Akihito's younger son spoke about the contentious issue in a news conference that was recorded for his 53rd birthday on Friday. Akihito plans to abdicate next year and will be succeeded by Crown Prince Naruhito. Akishino would then become first in line of succession.

Akishino said that using public funds for the Daijosai, the first communion that the new emperor performs with Shinto gods, is questionable since Japan's Constitution separates religion and state.

The ritual is expected in mid-November next year, and the government has announced that it would cover the cost, following the precedent set at the time of Akihito's succession 30 years ago. The cost



In this Nov. 22, 2018, photo provided by the Imperial Household Agency of Japan, Japan's Prince Akishino and his wife Princess Kiko attend a press conference ahead of his birthday at their residence in Tokyo.

Associated Press

of that rite alone was 2.25 billion yen (\$20 million), though the government is expected to spend slightly less next year. The palace budget this year for the Imperial family's private activities, including religious ones, is about one-seventh of that amount, and Akishino said the ceremony

could be scaled down to reduce its cost.

"It's a royal family event, and it is highly religious," Akishino told reporters. "The question is if it is appropriate to use government funds to cover the cost of such a highly religious event." He said he thinks the ritual held for his father should not

have been funded by the government, and that he still holds that view.

The government has already decided to follow the previous example, he said. "Personally, I still feel awkward ... I still believe (the ritual) should be covered by the Imperial family budget." He said he con-

veyed his views about the upcoming event to palace officials, but they "would not listen to me."

The constitutionality of government funding of the Daijosai ritual has long split legal experts and public opinion.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said Friday that there will be no change in the government decision to fund the ritual. The government, after an examination by a panel of experts, concluded that the rite is too religious to be considered an official duty of the emperor but is a key part of the succession ceremony and therefore deserves government funding.

The prince's rare expression of views opposing the government's position topped Japanese newspapers and television talk shows Friday. They also highlighted the contrast between the conservative and hawkish stance of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's government and the Imperial family's views, seen as liberal and pacifist. □

Vietnam jails 2 ex-police generals for role in gambling ring

Associated Press

HANOI, Vietnam (AP) — A court in northern Vietnam on Friday jailed two former police generals for protecting a multimillion-dollar online gambling ring as the Communist government steps up its crackdown on graft.

Former national police chief Phan Van Vinh and former head of hi-tech crimes police department Nguyen Thanh Hoa were sentenced to nine and 10 years respectively after being convicted of abuse of power at the end of the three-week trial by the People's Court in Phu Tho province.

Two gambling ring leaders, Nguyen Van Duong, former chairman of the private company CNC, and Phan San Nam, former chairman of VTC Online joint stock company,



Former police generals Nguyen Thanh Hoa, center front row, and Phan Van Vinh, right second row, are escorted by police to a courtroom of People's Court in northern province of Phu Tho, Vietnam, Friday, Nov. 30, 2018.

Associated Press

were sentenced to 10 and five years respectively for organizing gambling and

money laundering. The ring had operated from April 2015 until it was bro-

ken up in August last year with some \$425 million having been gambled online.

The ring made \$200 million in illegal profits, according to the government.

They were among 92 defendants involved in the case.

"Vinh's acts have caused discontent among the public, reduced the reputation of the police force and people's trust," state-run Tuoi Tre newspaper quoted the verdict as saying. "Vinh had intentionally covered up the crimes committed by Duong and his accomplices."

Vinh, who was general director of the General Department of Police under the Ministry of Public Security until his retirement two years ago, was arrested in July while Hoa was arrested a month earlier. Following their arrests, the ministry stripped both men of their ranks. □

New leftist president promises transformation of Mexico

By MARK STEVENSON

Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Mexico's incoming president, Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, is folksy, plain-spoken, and spontaneous — perhaps too much so for financial markets, which have been roiled in advance of his inauguration Saturday.

Lopez Obrador is the first president since the Mexican Revolution to rise to prominence as a protest leader, and he sees his inauguration as a historic "fourth transformation" of Mexico, following independence from Spain, the liberal reforms that broke the church's dominance in the 1850s and the 1910-1917 revolution.

His calls for a crusade against corruption and his professed concern for the common people often assume the proportion of a moral mission, with a zeal that carries over to pet projects, such as a costly rural railroad project, that baffle or alarm critics.

So, who will he listen to? It's pretty clear he hears the financial markets, at least when they make noise about the prospect of a president who in the past has railed against a "mafia of power" that included major business figures.

One ratings agency downgraded Mexico's outlook to "negative" and the peso and stocks have plunged in recent weeks after conflicting signals from Lopez Obrador's team, prompting conciliatory words from the incoming leader.

"We are going to give a lot of reassurance to investors, to those who invest in shares, in companies, in financial markets. Their investments will be guaranteed, and they will get good returns, because there will be true rule of law," Lopez Obrador said in a taped message four days before taking office.

He boasts of listening to the people, and has submitted his pet projects to a series of unofficial "referendums," winning overwhelming support, though with the participation of only about



In this Sept. 16, 2018 file photo, Mexico's President-elect Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador greets supporters as he kicks off a nationwide tour after his election in Mazatlan, Mexico.

Associated Press

1 percent of registered voters. "We will always be looking for more legitimacy, more support from the people," he said.

At the same time, the man who built his political career on defending the poor faces a huge immediate challenge: the thousands of impoverished Central American migrants camped out in squalid conditions on the border with the United States and the thousands more on the way. U.S. President Donald Trump has threatened to close border crossings to prevent them from entering, and Mexico's new leader — once labeled a hot-head — appears ready to defuse the situation by agreeing to provide better housing for the migrants while they wait for months on Mexican soil for a chance to apply for asylum in the U.S.

But Lopez Obrador dismisses his domestic critics as "fifi" — Mexican slang for elitist or frivolous — saying they need to spend more time with the poor and people in small towns.

Lopez Obrador, who led protests against oil pollution in his swampy native state of Tabasco, comes across as friendly, if a bit obstinate, and surely has a kind of charisma.

Certainly, no politician in Mexican history has shaken more hands or toured more dusty small towns than Lopez Obrador over

more than a dozen years of campaigning for the presidency.

That hands-on style echoes the folksy autocracy of his hero of the 1930s, Lázaro Cárdenas, who nationalized the oil industry as a nearly all-powerful president. But many worry about how well Lopez Obrador will respect the opposition, or the counterbalances put in place in recent decades to limit presidential power.

"I think he is resurrecting the imperial presidency of 30 or 40 years ago," said Jose Antonio Crespo, a political analyst at Mexico's Center for Economic Research and Training. "But it is also mixed with Lopez Obrador's personal style, which is disorderly, ambiguous, contradictory and capricious."

"He is going to govern by whim, according to his desires, and he's going to ride roughshod over institutions," Crespo said.

On the other hand, many of those who contributed to Lopez Obrador's crushing tidal wave of victory in the July 1 elections look forward to his inauguration with enormous hope that he will wrest power from market-oriented technocrats, and produce jobs and better wages.

Francisco Javier Martinez Cardenas, a 59-year-old street vendor who uses crutches and has high blood pressure, waited in

line to cast his vote in one of Lopez Obrador's "referendums" last week. "This is something innovative," he said of the vote. "Before, the government never consulted us on anything. Before, when the government decided something, we only heard about it, sometimes months, even years later."

Gustavo de la Vega, a 30-year-old industrial designer who also voted in the referendum — but against some of the projects — said, "I do have a lot of hope ... but we're not giving him a blank check." One project being put to the vote was Lopez Obrador's plan for a "Maya train" that would link resorts like Cancun and Tulum with colonial Merida and the jungle ruins of Palenque and Calakmul on the Yucatan Peninsula. He announced a start date for the \$7.5 billion project, though there has been no environmental impact statement, serious economic feasibility study or consultation with indigenous communities, as required by law.

Lopez Obrador brushed off experts who led a petition drive against the plan, accusing them of being out of touch with the people.

"Look at what the petition-signers don't know," Lopez Obrador wrote. "I say it with all respect and I recognize the majority are very smart people, but as amazing

as it sounds, they need to make contact with the people in the countryside." He has taken a similar broad-brush approach to Mexico's main problems.

For example, Lopez Obrador wants to build an expensive new refinery to restore Mexico, which now imports much of its gasoline, to the glory days of big oil in the 1970s, though many analysts say that will only add to the woes of the debt-strapped state oil company.

He hasn't outlined any plan to stop gangs that drill illegal taps into government pipelines an average of 40 times every day, looting a major source of government revenues while occasionally sparking explosions and employing entire neighborhoods as protective human shields.

He has also been vague about how he will tackle the drug cartels, kidnappers and extortionists who have boosted Mexico's homicide rates to historic levels.

Contrary to calls to return soldiers to their barracks and remove them from civilian law enforcement, Lopez Obrador now has proposed creating a National Guard under military control, subsuming the federal police and military police.

That plan, too, lacks specifics. "It doesn't have any strategies for action, it doesn't say how they're going to do things," said Raul Benitez, a security expert and professor at the National Autonomous University of Mexico.

So far, however, Lopez Obrador has proved surprisingly adept at handling foreign relations despite having almost no experience in the field, and when confronted with Trump and his sometimes threatening language toward Mexico.

"He has a good relationship with the United States," Benitez said. "Foreign relations have been the best area I have seen" in the incoming administration. "He got involved in negotiations on the free trade agreement, and that didn't go badly." □

LOCAL



Playa Linda gives thanks for the dedicated service of its top associates

PALM BEACH – From the front of the house to the back of the house, Playa Linda Beach Resort associates remain the resort's greatest asset. A celebration of valued employees, who are marking a work anniversary this year, took place recently in the form of a thanksgiving lunch at Giannis restaurant.

Playa Linda, which celebrated its own 35th year anniversary this year, is particularly proud to recognize its long time employees, who have helped established the resort's reputation as a beloved timeshare and tops for hospitality and seamless service. Among the honorees are four employees who have been with the resort for decades. Foremost among them is Executive Housekeeper Ingrid Todd who marks 35 years and who remains a role model for dedicated service and career accomplishments.

Also honored were 30-year employees, Adela Orman, from Housekeeping, and Marlyn Tromp, from Accounting. Accolades and gratitude were also expressed for the contributions of 25-year employee Santiago Aldea, from Grounds.

A 15-year employee, Felicitia Cuesta Colon, from Housekeeping, also received recognition for her many years of service. Marking a decade with the resort, and receiving praise is 10-year employee Nidia Helder, from Accounting.

Associates who have fast become part of the Playa Linda family are five-year employees, Luz Marina Duran, Yahaira Jimenez and Shirley Maduro, from Housekeeping, as well as Bellman Diego Vazquez

and Andres Rubio from Loss Prevention.

All employees celebrating a work anniversary receive the traditional bonus on their original date of hire, but the annual thanksgiving lunch provides the opportunity for the Playa

Linda to express its ongoing gratitude for the hard work accomplished each day by each one of the honorees. All associates recognized for a milestone work anniversary this year received additional words of thanks and a gift to mark the occasion. □



Book in Honoring of Linguist Ramon (Monche) Todd Dandaré



ORANJESTAD — The National Library was filled with people last Thursday evening. Reason was the presentation of the book 'E Caya di Monche', meaning 'The Street of Monche' written by our dear colleague Benjamin Romero Barliza. The book is an honoring to local linguist Ramon (Monche) Todd Dandaré who played and plays an important role in the preservation of the local language Papiamentu.

MC of the evening was Dr. Joyce Perreira, president of the foundation Lanta Papiamentu, a great defender of Papiamentu in the teaching system and in the possession of a PhD in that language. The author explained to the audi-

ence that he was born and raised in Aruba with parents from Colombia. His heart is with the island and its people and he simply does not want the valuable, historic, cultural and social story of Monche untold. "This has to do with the love of people for the island, the warmth in a neighborhood with different cultural influences and the life of Monche with all its ups and downs unfolding in the book."

The book consists of three parts, among others the biography of Monche and the historical background of the Elleboogstraat where he lived. Ramon Todd Dandaré did not live an easy life and he fought hard for his achievements, making

him now a highly respected intellectual with an academic career and expert in the native language Papiamentu. The book talk about the period between 1940 and 1965.

During the presentation it was obvious that many families and/or their relatives who had lived in that neighborhood were present. Minister of Teaching, Science and Sustainable Development dr. Rudy Lampe was present to hear about Romero Barliza's book. For more information about the book (written in Papiamentu) please see Facebook page: Fundacion Lanta Papiamentu - FLP. □



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ORANJESTAD — Recently, Darline de Cuba of Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure to honor a Loyal and Friendly visitor of Aruba as Distinguished Visitors & Goodwill Ambassadors. The symbolic honorary title is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism, Transportation, as a token of appreciation to the guests who visit Aruba between 10-20 and more consecutive years.

The honorees are Mr. Joe & Mrs. Missy Riddle, residents of South Carolina and Ms. Sara & Ms. Silvia Fernandez Rivera, residents of Maracaibo, Venezuela. The honorees love Aruba very much specially the beautiful weather, the variety of restaurant all



over the island, the feeling of safety and the wonderful people of this island.

Darline together with representatives of the Renaissance Ocean Club presented the cer-

tificate to the honorees and handed over some presents to them and thanked them for choosing Aruba as their vacation destination and as her home away from home for so many years.





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'A Safe Haven for Those with a Lost Memory'



ORANJESTAD - Foundation Cas Marie is a day care for clients with dementia. Aruba Today spoke with director Lisette Does about the importance of a safe place and a structured day for those who cope with a decline in mental ability. "Dementia interferes with daily life. Here at Cas Marie the clients find a place of rest, where they can be themselves and be together with equal minds." Cas Marie has 25 clients that spend the day from 8 am to 4 pm, Mondays through Thursdays.

Lisette: "When they come in every morning we start with coffee and a breakfast bite. They need to feel

at ease and get socialized. We do activities, depending on the level of dementia, in groups or individually. Every Monday we start with gymnastics. At noon we all eat together, a fresh, hot meal that is prepared in our own kitchen. Real local food as they know from the earlier days, it is called 'Crioyo'."

Structure to Hold On

It is of great importance to offer a structured day, so every morning Lisette and her staff greet every client individually. "The clients are all in the same boat here and do not need to feel lost or as an outsider." For the family it means that they have some time to themselves as it can

be a challenge to live with somebody who suffers dementia. "They cannot be left alone and often they switch the day and night rhythm which means the family gets no rest while they have their work and daily responsibilities."

The daycare is founded by Boy Escalona ten years ago. "His wife was called Marie and she suffered from dementia. He saw the need of a day care and with professional help he started this home." The house has a warm family feeling and you can see clearly that the clients feel home here. "Some of them think they are at work and we do give them 'responsibilities' like watering the plants in order for them to feel needed." Lisette wished she had place for more clients because there is a waiting list and she sees the need of more help. "But we cannot do this without help. We have great donors, but we are in need

for more help to realize our plans."

They Care

In the island dementia is still quite a taboo and people often look for help when it is already late. "We have a Memory Center at San Pedro Pavilion in Oranjestad and we urge people to go there. The disease cannot be cured, but you can prepare yourself and train to slow the illness down." Cas Marie also organizes the Dementia Café every 3 months where they invite specialists or other related lecturers to elaborate about the illness. "And we started the Cas Marie Bo Bario this April where two of our colleagues go into the neighborhoods to do activities with potential clients at the community centers. This is also a prevention stage for us to signalize what is going on." While walking around with Lisette I see the Christmas tree, hear the music and feel the reason why every cli-

ent has her or his place here. It is like home, but together with equals and that makes it relaxed. "We really care about them. We will reach that age too and you need to be loved."

For this holiday season Cas Marie would be happy to welcome you at their home. You can meet the clients, talk, socialize, get to know the foundation and see their good work. It would be great if you bring a Christmas basket or donate in any other way. Just a small gesture would already help a lot.

If you would like to visit the foundation, please call + (297) 584-3375 and ask for Lisette Does. If you would like to donate, please do so at bank account RBC 42 68 288. For more information visit the website: www.casmarie.com or Facebook: CasMarie, centro di encuentro pa persona cu Demencia y nan Famia. □

SPORTS



Buffalo Sabres right wing Tage Thompson celebrates his goal against the Tampa Bay Lightning during the third period of an NHL hockey game Thursday, Nov. 29, 2018, in Tampa, Fla.

Associated Press

Lightning end Sabres' winning streak at 10 games

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — Cedric Paquette broke a tie with 5:41 left and the Tampa Bay Lightning ended the Buffalo Sabres' franchise-record-tying winning streak at 10 games with a 5-4 victory Thursday night. Paquette beat Carter Hutton from then top of the left circle.

Dan Girardi, Alex Killorn, Nikita Kucherov and Steven Stamkos also scored, and Luis Domingue made saves. Sam Reinhart had two goals for Buffalo, and Zemgus Girgensons and Tage Thompson also scored. After the Sabres took a 4-3 lead on Thompson's goal at 2:29 of the third, Stamkos tied it 1:49 later on a power play.

JETS 6, BLACKHAWKS 5

WINNIPEG, Manitoba (AP) — Nikolaj Ehlers had a hat trick, Patrik Laine scored twice and became the fourth-youngest player in NHL history to reach 100 goals, and Winnipeg beat Chicago.

Continued on page 23

PERFECT END



Cowboys smother Saints, pick up fourth straight win

Dallas Cowboys quarterback Dak Prescott (4) celebrates after he connected with teammate Ezekiel Elliott to score a touchdown against the New Orleans Saints in the first half of an NFL football game, in Arlington, Texas, Thursday, Nov. 29, 2018.

Associated Press
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Golden State Warriors forward Kevin Durant (35) drives around Toronto Raptors forward Kawhi Leonard (2) during the second half of an NBA basketball game Thursday, Nov. 29, 2018, in Toronto.

Associated Press

Leonard, Raptors withstand Durant's 51, beat Warriors in OT

By The Associated Press
TORONTO (AP)—Kawhi Leonard scored a season-high 37 points, Pascal Siakam added a career-high 26 and the Toronto Raptors overcame a 51-point performance from Kevin Durant to beat the Golden State Warriors 131-128 in overtime on Thursday night, extending their winning streak to seven.

Kyle Lowry had 10 points and 12 assists, Serge Ibaka scored 20 points and Danny Green had 13 as the Raptors snapped an eight-game losing streak against Golden State and won a contest billed as a potential NBA Finals preview. Toronto improved its league-leading record to 19-4. Durant scored 40 or more in three straight for the first time, finishing with his highest total of the season. He also had 11 rebounds and six assists. Klay Thompson scored 23 points and Jonas Jerebko had 16 of his 20 in the fourth quarter and overtime, but Golden State lost to Toronto for the first time since March 2014. **LAKERS 104, PACERS 96**
LOS ANGELES (AP)—LeBron James scored 12 of his 38 points in the

final five minutes, and Los Angeles rebounded from its first back-to-back losses in a month with a victory over Indiana. Brandon Ingram scored 14 points and Josh Hart added 13 for the Lakers, who blew an early 24-point lead before James carried them down the stretch to their 10th win in 14 games. Indiana trimmed Los Angeles' lead to 89-88 on Domantas Sabonis' jumper with 4:59 left, but James had a 3-pointer and a three-point play on consecutive possessions in a 10-0 Lakers run before adding a 22-foot jumper with 2:21 to play. Sabonis had 20 points and 15 rebounds as the Pacers lost for the first time in three stops on their four-game West Coast trip. **CLIPPERS 133, KINGS 121**
SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—Tobias Harris scored 28 points, Montrezl Harrell added 24 and Los Angeles beat Sacramento. Shai Gilgeous-Alexander had 17 points, and Avery Bradley and Danilo Gallinari had 16 apiece as the Clippers won their ninth in 10 games. Los Angeles extended its streak in Sacramento to 12 games. □



Atlanta United defender Michael Parkhurst, center, holds the Eastern Conference trophy after the team won the MLS soccer Eastern Conference championship Thursday, Nov. 29, 2018, in Harrison, N.J. The Red Bulls won Thursday's game 1-0, but Atlanta won 3-1 on aggregate.

Associated Press

Atlanta United, Portland Timbers advance to MLS Cup

By The Associated Press
HARRISON, N.J. (AP)—Atlanta United advanced to Major League Soccer's championship match in just its second season, losing to the New York Red Bulls 1-0 on Thursday night on a goal in second-half stoppage time but winning the two-match Eastern Conference final by a 3-1 aggregate score.

Atlanta will host Portland in the MLS Cup on Dec. 8, a chance for the city's second professional sports title and first since the Braves won the 1995 World Series New York, one of the league's original teams, had the best regular-season record for the third time in six seasons but remained without an MLS title. The Red Bulls have reached the conference final five times but advanced for the only time in 2008, when they lost the MLS Cup match to Columbus. Tim Parker scored the game's only goal in the fourth minute of stoppage time after a poor clearance by Brad Guzan

following a corner kick. With the temperature around 40 and an announced crowd of 22,137 on the late autumn night, Atlanta played with five men back and often 10 behind the ball in a classic "park the bus" defensive strategy. When Atlanta players fell to the ground following challenges, they often remained down for lengthy periods as time ran off the clock. MLS scoring champion Josef Martinez, Franco Escobar and Hector Villalba had goals at home in the first leg on Sunday. **TIMBERS 3, SPORTING KC 2**
TIMBERS ADVANCE ON 3-2 AGGREGATE

KANSAS CITY, Kan. (AP)—Diego Valeri scored a pair of goals, including one in stoppage time, and Portland beat Sporting Kansas City to advance to MLS Cup for the second time in four years. Sebastian Blanco also scored in the second half for Portland, which didn't even need Valeri's clinching goal. The teams had played

to a scoreless draw Sunday in Portland in the first leg of their aggregate-goal Western Conference final, and with road goals being the tiebreaker, the Timbers were assured of playing for a championship even when the score was 2-2. Valeri's stoppage goal merely allowed the Timbers to begin celebrating a few minutes early. Daniel Salloi scored in the first half and Gerso Fernandes scored in the 81st minute for Sporting KC. Blanco's strike in the 52nd minute was followed by Valeri's header off a rebound moments later, a goal that not only silenced the crowd at Children's Mercy Park but led to a rather bizarre scene. Fans in one corner of the stadium began throwing bottles and other trash at Portland players, and referee Mark Geiger brought both teams to the sideline. Sporting KC manager Peter Vermes then stalked more than halfway across the field to admonish his own club's fans. □

Cowboys stifle Brees, end Saints' 10-game win streak, 13-10

By SCHUYLER DIXON

AP Pro Football Writer

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) —

Dak Prescott desperately scrambled for a first down in a game of fourth-quarter keepaway, then took three knees starting from the New Orleans 1 to run out the clock by the narrowest possible margin.

Anything to keep Drew Brees and the NFL's highest-scoring offense on the sideline.

Ezekiel Elliott scored the only Dallas touchdown on a 16-yard screen pass and the Cowboys stifled Brees and the Saints, ending New Orleans' 10-game winning streak with a 13-10 victory Thursday night.

The Cowboys (7-5) won their fourth consecutive game and assured they will at least remain tied for the NFC East lead.

The Saints (10-2) were shut out in the first half, had their fewest points in three years and finished with a season-low 176 yards. They missed a chance to perfectly match Dallas from two years ago, when then-rookie sensations Elliott and Prescott won 11 straight after dropping the opener.

"Everybody knew it. We had to keep the ball away from Brees," Cowboys owner and general manager Jerry Jones said. "We needed to play this kind of game. I must tell you, the defense played beyond my expectations. They played like a championship defense."

Brees had his fewest yards passing in a first half since joining the Saints in 2006 with 39, and couldn't get a potential winning drive going in the final minutes.

Instead, Jourdan Lewis' interception — just the third for Brees while he became the NFL's first with at least 30 TD passes in 10 seasons — gave the Cowboys a chance to run out the clock from the New Orleans 1 after an interference penalty in the end zone. Brees said he was trying to throw the ball away behind pass-catching back Alvin Kamara, who cut outside just as Brees threw it and Lewis dove forward, barely keeping the ball off the ground.

"As an offense, we think complementary football," Brees said. "Let's put together a drive. Let's keep our defense off the field. Let's control the game, control the clock, control the ball. Just never felt like we really did that as an offense like we've done this year."

The Cowboys spent the fourth quarter trying to protect their three-point lead, with Prescott breaking several tackles on an 11-yard scramble on third-and-10 and Cole Beasley catching a third-down pass and diving for 5 yards on third-and-5.

But Prescott fumbled on his season-high seventh sack with Dallas in position for at least a field goal, giving Brees another chance from his 15 with more than two minutes remaining.

Brees' interception came two plays later, then Marshon Lattimore was called for interference against Amari Cooper in the end zone, giving Dallas a first down at the 1 with 1:58 remaining.

The Cowboys had just enough time to end the game, with the play clock matching the game clock down to zero after Prescott took a knee for the third time.

Brees was 18 of 28 for 127 yards, actually the second straight game and third overall under 200 yards for the MVP contender. The running game didn't do much either, with Kamara getting 36 yards rushing while the Saints had 65 as a team after averaging 177 the previous four games.

The only touchdown drive for the Saints was aided by three first downs on Dallas penalties. The biggest was Randy Gregory's roughing-the-punter penalty on Thomas Morstead.

Two plays later, Brees dropped a deep throw to a backpedaling Keith Kirkwood in the end zone for a 30-yard score to get New Orleans within 13-10.

Prescott had 194 of his 248 yards passing while helping the Cowboys to a 13-0 half-time lead — the first scoreless first half for the Saints since 2014, also against



New Orleans Saints quarterback Drew Brees (9) is pressured by Dallas Cowboys defensive tackle Tyrone Crawford (98) as he passes during the second half of an NFL football game, in Arlington, Texas, Thursday, Nov. 29, 2018.

Associated Press

the Cowboys, and their first deficit in five games.

Elliott had 136 scrimmage yards with 76 rushing and 60 receiving on six catches.

MATCHING ZEKE, RAISING HIM \$2

After forcing and recovering a fumble by Cooper in the first half, Lattimore ran to one of the giant red Salvation Army kettles behind an end zone, pulled \$23 out of his uniform and dropped it in. Lattimore is No. 23. In the Thanksgiving game a week earlier, Elliott (No. 21) dropped \$21 into the other kettle on the same end of the field.

GIL BRANDT IN RING OF HONOR

The Cowboys inducted former director of player personnel Gil Brandt into the team's ring of honor at half-time. The 85-year-old joins former coach Tom Landry and former general manager Tex Schramm, both deceased, in the 22-person group. Those three held their titles for the franchise's first 29 years before Jerry Jones bought the team. Jones fired Landry immediately, and Schramm resigned less than two months later. Jones fired Brandt after the owner and general manager's first draft in 1989. Brandt has been nominated as a contributor for next year's voting for the Pro

Football Hall of Fame.

THIS AND THAT

New Orleans DT David Onyemata had his first two sacks of the season in the first half. ... Kirkwood's TD was the second of his career, and second in as many weeks. ... Cooper had eight catches for 75 yards, and rookie Michael Gallup had five for 76, highlighted by a 40-yarder to set up the first of Brett Maher's two field goals.

UP NEXT

Saints: At Tampa Bay on Dec. 9 in second of three straight road games.

Cowboys: Philadelphia on Dec. 9 in last of three straight home games. □

2 of NFL's top rivalries have turned sour

By **BARRY WILNER**

AP Pro Football Writer

Two of the NFL's most intense rivalries have turned sour.

When the Chiefs visit the Raiders in a series that dates back to the AFL and has been as good as any in pro football, the oddsmakers see Oakland (2-9) getting routed — at home — by Kansas City. Most of America sees it that way, too.

"I know this, when it comes to Chiefs and Raiders, it doesn't matter records," said Chiefs coach Andy Reid, whose team is 9-2. "It's one of those deals and you better come ready to play against a Jon Gruden-coached football team. That's the way I am approaching it with the guys right now. I just think that's very important."

Since the Raiders moved back from Los Angeles to Oakland in 1995, there's been only one season when both clubs had winning records (2016). The rivalry has been less heated since Marty Schottenheimer left as Kansas City coach in 1998 and Raiders owner Al Davis died in 2011. But this gap is success is ridiculous. A more recent rivalry to savor has been San Francisco vs. Seattle. With the Seahawks (6-5) retooling but still competitive, and the 49ers (2-9) perennially rebuilding, that magic seems gone. Indeed, the league flexed this game off prime time.

"We had some great battles over the years," says Seahawks coach Pete Carroll, specifically referring to the matchups with Jim Harbaugh when he led the 49ers. "If that's what you guys want to call a rivalry, I'm not trying to minimize that part, it's just that isn't the way I talk and act and think about it. The better the other team is, the more it brings out the best you have, and I love that."

The weekend began Thursday night with Dallas' 13-10 home victory over New Orleans. Ezekiel Elliott scored the only Dallas touchdown and the Cowboys (7-5) stifled Drew



In this Dec. 9, 2012, file photo, Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger (7) talks with San Diego Chargers quarterback Philip Rivers (17) after the Chargers won 34-24 in an NFL football game in Pittsburgh. The scoreboard might explode at Heinz Field as Class of 2004 QBs Philip Rivers and Ben Roethlisberger light it up on Sunday.

Associated Press

Brees and the Saints (10-2), ending New Orleans' 10-game winning streak. New Orleans failed to score in the first half, with Brees throwing for 39 yards.

There are no more byes on the schedule.

Kansas City (10-1) at Oakland (2-9)

It's a bit complicated, but a Chiefs win and losses by Miami, Tennessee, Houston, Indianapolis, Baltimore and Cincinnati in certain combinations hand KC a playoff berth. Not that anyone doubts one is coming.

The Chiefs have won six of seven in this series and Reid's teams are 16-3 coming off a bye.

Here's a weird stat: Oakland stands fifth in the NFL with 34 points on opening drives. It's third worst with 1.32 points per drive after that.

San Francisco (2-9) at Seattle (6-5)

Most intriguing here is Richard Sherman now wearing a 49ers jersey. The star defensive back for seven seasons in Seattle hasn't done much in San Francisco: Sherman had 32 picks for Seattle, most in the NFL during that span. He has zero interceptions and four passes defended this season.

"It's different. Just the

dynamic of the NFC West has changed," Sherman says. "It's changed a few times throughout the years. Early on when I first came in the league, San Fran was at the top and winning the division and went to a few NFC championships. In the middle of that, Seattle came up and was battling with Frisco, and for one crazy year Arizona came out of nowhere and had a really good season and made it to the NFC championship.

"There was a lot more teeth to the rivalry during those middle years for a number of reasons because there were several story lines. Since then, coaching changes have happened here, personnel changes have happened elsewhere, and the Rams have become incredible in the division and are playing really good football. So a lot has changed."

The Seahawks have won eight straight and 10 of the past 11 vs. the 49ers. Seattle, which plays four of its final five at home — the other game is at the Niners — are 26-13 in regular-season games in December/January under Carroll.

Los Angeles Chargers (8-3) at Pittsburgh (7-3-1)

The scoreboard might explode at Heinz Field as Class of 2004 QBs Philip Rivers and Ben Roethlisberger light it up.

Rivers set an NFL record for highest completion rate (96.6 percent) and tied the mark for consecutive completions (25) in last week's rout of Arizona. He has multi-TD games in every outing this season, but will be without running back Melvin Gordon (knee).

Roethlisberger's 97-yard touchdown pass to JuJu Smith-Schuster last week gave him four 90-plus yard passes, most in NFL history. He threw for 462 yards in the loss at the Broncos, his sixth game of 450-plus yards. No other QB in NFL history has more than four.

Pittsburgh has won four of the past five meetings and is 15-3 at home against the Chargers.

Neither team can afford a stumble as it approaches likely postseason berths. LA can't fall further behind KC in the AFC West, and the Steelers have hopes of a first-round bye.

Minnesota (6-4-1) at New England (8-3)

More records are within Tom Brady's reach. With two touchdown passes against Minnesota, Brady would pass Peyton

Manning's 579 for the most passing touchdowns in NFL history, including the postseason. He also would beat Brett Favre's 508 for the third-most regular-season touchdown passes. With the Vikings' best cornerback, Xavier Rhodes, leaving last Sunday night with a hamstring issue, stymieing Brady could be a major challenge for Minnesota as it chases NFC North leader Chicago.

"I remember when we were going in Cincinnati I'm watching him pregame and he was just throwing these darts," Vikings coach Mike Zimmer says of Brady, "and I'm like, 'Oh my gosh, we're in trouble today.' But his accuracy, I think he sees so many things now, I think with the experience. I don't know that he's changed all that much."

Washington (6-5) at Philadelphia (5-6), Monday night

Among the many so-so teams in playoff contention are the Redskins, operating without their No. 1 quarterback, Alex Smith, and the defending Super Bowl champion Eagles, with a torn-up secondary. Colt McCoy had 268 yards passing, two touchdowns and three interceptions last week. Something to look for: Adrian Peterson needs two TDs to pass Jim Brown (106) for fifth most in NFL history.

Philly's secondary is ravaged by injuries, so a strong pass rush likely is needed.

Los Angeles Rams (10-1) at Detroit (4-7)

The Rams have their eyes on winning out to put the heat on New Orleans for overall home-field advantage in the NFC. First up, a pair of NFC Central opponents — at Chicago next week is the tougher test.

Los Angeles clinches the NFC West with a win or Seattle loss. Todd Gurley leads the league with 1,484 scrimmage yards and 17 scrimmage TDs, and DT Aaron Donald has been practically unblockable at times. He had two strip-sacks in the win over the Chiefs. □

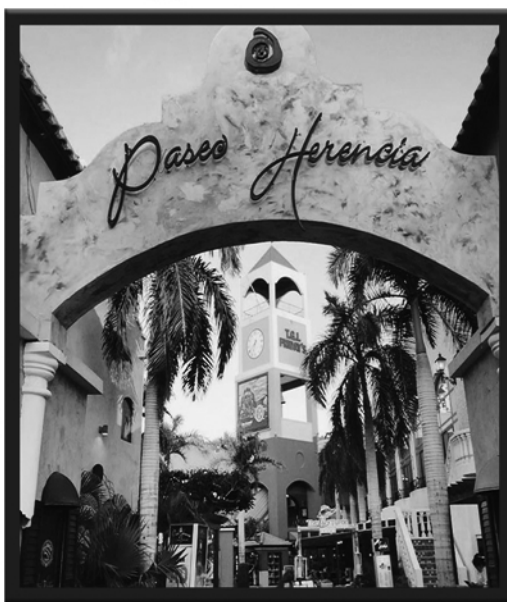


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The big fight: In Fury, Wilder faces true heavyweight equal

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Deontay Wilder has waited a decade for the chance to pick on somebody his own size.

Wilder (40-0, 39 KOs) is the most accomplished American heavyweight boxer of his era, a superb athlete with vicious punching power and a reckless streak. The Olympic medalist has stopped every man who ever stepped in the professional ring with him, following up his lone decision victory with a knockout in the first round of the rematch. Yet even the 32-year-old Wilder agrees he had never fought anyone approaching his own stature — not in physical size, but in boxing achievement — until quite recently. He has built his career with sometimes confounding deliberateness, taking his time to learn the sport he only picked up as a 20-year-old after moving on from football and basketball in his native Alabama.

"Everybody has their appointed time," Wilder said this week. "My time is now." When Wilder steps into the Staples Center ring to defend his WBC title against Britain's Tyson Fury (27-0, 19 KOs) on Saturday night, he finally has the right opponent on the right stage at the right moment. Fury is the lineal champion of the heavyweight division, thanks to his shocking victory over Wladimir Klitschko in 2015, and his showdown with Wilder is probably the most important heavyweight bout since .

The pay-per-view Hollywood spotlight encap-



Boxers Deontay Wilder, left, and Tyson Fury exchange words as they face each other at a news conference in Los Angeles, Wednesday, Nov. 28, 2018. The pair are slated to fight Saturday night for Wilder's WBC heavyweight title.

Associated Press

sulates everything Wilder has craved for years, even when he knew he wasn't ready.

"So much emotion is running through my body right now," Wilder said. "I was ready for this 10 weeks ago. We only went through a training camp because we didn't want to get stale. I didn't need it. I've been ready for so long."

The 6-foot-7 American is actually the smaller man in this bout against the 6-foot-9 Fury, whose pure bulk obscures his nimble feet and excellent technique.

Punching up is a new feeling for Wilder, both inside and outside the ring, but he

can't wait to try it.

"This is bringing me close to my goal to be the one face, the one voice of the heavyweight division," Wilder said. "America has needed a heavyweight champion like me for years. This is my time."

Wilder took another big step toward his ultimate goal earlier this year when he came back from an early knockdown to stop highly regarded Luis Ortiz in an entertaining finish. When British three-belt champ Anthony Joshua refused his advances this summer, Wilder booked a bout with the resurgent Fury, whose career foundered amid

drug abuse and depression after his victory over Klitschko.

Fury has enough fame and success in boxing-mad England to match up favorably outside the ring with Wilder, and the Manchester native sees this matchup in quite different terms.

"Wilder needs me, make no mistake," Fury said. "He's been champion since 2015, he's made seven defenses, but he's still unknown. So what do they need to do? Bring in a big-mouthed Brit, the best fighter in the world, and let him get his (tail) kicked. He'll become known. He'll get a good hiding from Tyson Fury, and

he can rebuild himself. ... Everyone will love the story, but he's just not ready to get past me. This is too much for him."

Fury has fought twice since his 2 ½-year ring hiatus, both times against over-matched foes. But he is re-invested in his career after moving his training base to California, and he radiates confidence as he resumes his pursuit of the title belts he lost during his absence. Wilder sees Fury as a heavyweight whose record was even less impressive than his own before that shocking victory over the 39-year-old Klitschko.

"You only have confidence because Klitschko didn't throw punches," Wilder said to Fury during their final news conference.

Wilder and Fury seem almost certain to put on an entertaining show, and not just because of their compelling public appearances — the most recent of which ended with Fury ripping off his shirt after nearly coming to blows with Wilder on stage.

Wilder's style is occasionally awkward, but he loves action and realizes his best chance to win every fight is with the knockout power in his heavy hands.

Fury is an excellent boxer who could frustrate Wilder for long stretches, yet he also loves to discard caution in favor of a good brawl.

"I've been looking for somebody to knock me out my whole life," Fury said. "I haven't found him yet. I don't think I'll find him Saturday night." □

Chase Elliott wins NASCAR's most popular driver award

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Chase Elliott has been voted NASCAR's most popular driver, ending a 15-year run for superstar Dale Earnhardt Jr. Earnhardt presented Elliott the award during NASCAR's annual season-ending awards ceremony Thursday at the Wynn Las Vegas. Earnhardt won the award for 15 consecutive years until his retirement last season. His streak fell one short of the record of

16 set by Chase Elliott's father, Bill Elliott. "Definitely a big passing," Elliott said told Earnhardt on stage. "So cool, though, that it stayed between Elliott and Earnhardt for so long. I am glad, though, that you quit a year before you broke Dad's record, so that's pretty cool. I'm pretty happy about that. We got it back in the right name. I'm a little biased. Sorry." The award is based on a fan vote and

sponsored by the National Motorsports Press Association. Bill Elliott won the award every year between 1984 and 2002, until he removed his name from consideration. Now, the award has returned to the Elliott family. Chase Elliott won three times in the Cup Series in 2018, including twice in the playoffs.

"I was in some good situations with some fast cars and I was able to get a few

wins. It was a good year," Elliott said. "We couldn't finish it off as strong as those couple months there in the summer, late summer, but looking forward to '19 and excited to get back going." His first trip to victory lane was years in the making. Elliott won the Xfinity Series championship in 2014, when he was 18 and finally eligible to run a full NASCAR season. Plans were formed in 2015 for his move

to the big leagues with Hendrick Motorsports as he replaced retiring four-time champion Jeff Gordon. Elliott was in the seat not long after his 20th birthday. Chase entered the series with a built-in fan base that desperately wanted him to match his father's success. Because he drove for powerhouse Hendrick, in Gordon's old ride, many figured wins would come immediately. □

Vonn plans to return next season for races at Lake Louise

By PAT GRAHAM
AP Sports Writer

Lindsey Vonn can't bring herself to say goodbye to ski racing without one final run at her favorite course.

So she intends to extend her farewell tour into next season.

The all-time winningest women's World Cup racer announced on her new YouTube channel Friday that she plans to come back for one more series of speed races at Lake Louise, Alberta, during the 2019-20 season.

She was adamant she would retire following this season. But those plans were altered when she hyperextended and sprained a ligament in her knee during a training crash on Nov. 19. She posted video of the crash in which she fell on a turn, did the splits and went into the protective fence. She also suffered a bone bruise.

That wipeout forced her skip the speed events this

weekend in Lake Louise, which she's dominated so often that her fans playfully call it "Lake Lindsey." Vonn has 18 career World Cup wins at the venue.

"The whole point of having one last season is to have one last season — to race in every single race one last time, to make those final memories," Vonn said in her video. "Because I'm injured now, I can't have that, and I feel like I would regret it for the rest of my life if I didn't take that one last chance to push out of the starting gate in Lake Louise."

Vonn hasn't announced a timetable for her return to the circuit this season. She expressed her frustration in sitting out two downhill races and a super-G race at Lake Louise.

"To miss my favorite stop on the tour is devastating to put it lightly," Vonn said. "I know I'm going to be back shortly, probably be able to race in a few weeks. The fact I'm missing Lake Louise

is a huge blow for me.

"The whole point really is to enjoy every stop on the tour, really make some great final memories, take a lot of pictures, enjoy the time with my teammates, just really soak it all in. To miss my favorite stop on the tour, I don't even know really how to handle it."

The 34-year-old Vonn has 82 World Cup victories, leaving her five away from breaking the record held by Ingemar Stenmark of Sweden.

"Hopefully, I break the record this season and can have fun," said Vonn, who earned a gold medal in the downhill and a bronze in the super-G at the 2010 Vancouver Games, along with a downhill bronze at the Pyeongchang Olympics last February. "I don't want the record to determine the level of success I've had in my career."

"I want to push out of the starting gate (at Lake Louise), even if I'm not there to



In this Dec. 6, 2015, file photo, Lindsey Vonn, of the United States, skis her way to victory during the women's World Cup super-G skiing event in Lake Louise, Alberta.

Associated Press

win. Lake Louise is just really special to me. It's not about the record. It's not about, 'Oh, well you said you retired.' I really don't care what people think. I really don't. I want to do it for myself."

Still, it does provide a safety net.

"Let's put it this way: She has

one target. That's very obvious. Lake Louise for her, it's a really good chance to get some victories," Aksel Lund Svindal of Norway said Friday after finishing third during the downhill race at Beaver Creek, Colorado. "She has this one thing that's a crazy driver for her." □

NHL CAPSULES

Continued from Page 17

Laine scored his 100th and 101st goals in his 178th game at the age of 20 years, 224 days. Wayne Gretzky did it the fastest in 20 years, 40 days. Jimmy Carson and Brian Bellows also accomplished the feat faster than Laine. The Finnish forward has an NHL-leading 21 goals this season, 18 of them November. Ehlers scored a goal in each period, with his third fired in when he went in alone on goalie Corey Crawford and beat him with a low shot at 9:45 of the third period to make it 6-3. Jacob Trouba added a goal and an assist for Winnipeg, Mark Scheifele and Blake Wheeler each had three assists, and Connor Hellebuyck made 26 saves. Marcus Kruger, John Hayden, Jan Rutta, Domink Kahun and Artem Anisimov scored for Chicago.

BRUINS 2, ISLANDERS 1, SO BOSTON (AP) — Ryan Donato scored the decisive shootout goal in his NHL return, Tuukka Rask made 28 saves and Boston out-

lasted New York.

Donato, recalled Wednesday after a demotion to Providence of the AHL, tucked the winner past Robin Lehner on the Bruins' fourth attempt. Boston has earned at least one point in five of its past six games. Brad Marchand scored in regulation for the Bruins. Anders Lee had a goal and Lehner made 35 saves for the Islanders.

The Bruins retired former right wing Rick Middleton's No. 16 before the game.

BLUE JACKETS 4, WILD 2 COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Riley Nash had a goal and an assist, Sergei Bobrovsky stopped 23 shots and Columbus beat Minnesota to move ahead of Washington for the Metropolitan Division lead.

Nash, who signed as a free agent last summer, got his first goal in 29 games — and first as a Blue Jacket — in the second period and assisted on Markus Haninainen's first-period tally. Columbus has won two in a row and six out of eight. Cam Atkinson and Artemi Panarin also scored.

Mikael Granlund and Zach

Parise scored for Minnesota.

COYOTES 3, PREDATORS 0 NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Nick Schmaltz had a goal and an assist, Adin Hill made 29 saves for his first NHL shutout and Arizona beat Nashville.

Schmaltz's two points were his first since being acquired Sunday in a trade with the Chicago Blackhawks. Clayton Keller and Brad Richardson also scored.

Nashville has lost three of four.

GOLDEN KNIGHTS 4, CANUCKS 3

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP) — Max Pacioretty scored twice to lead Vegas past struggling Vancouver for its fifth straight victory.

William Karlsson's short-handed goal with 6:25 remaining snapped a 3-all tie. William Carrier also scored for the Golden Knights, and Marc-Andre Fleury made 33 saves.

Brock Boeser had two goals for Vancouver, which has lost 10 of 11. Alex Edler also scored for the Canucks, and Jacob Markstrom



Winnipeg Jets' Nikolaj Ehlers (27) scores on Chicago Blackhawks goaltender Corey Crawford (50) during the first period of an NHL hockey game Thursday, Nov. 29, 2018, in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Associated Press

stopped 27 shots.

OILERS 3, KINGS 2

EDMONTON, Alberta (AP) — Oscar Klefbom scored his second straight winning goal and added an assist to help Edmonton beat Los Angeles to improve to 3-1-1 under new coach Ken Hitchcock.

Klefbom broke a 2-all tie with 2:20 remaining on his power-play drive from the point. Jesse Puljujarvi and Alex Chiasson also scored, and Mikko Koskinen stopped 30 shots.

Dustin Brown and Jeff Carter scored for the Kings.

Jonathan Quick made 31 saves in his first start since Oct. 23. He missed 15 games due to surgery to repair a torn meniscus in his knee.

SENATORS 3, RANGERS 0 OTTAWA, Ontario (AP) — Craig Anderson stopped 27 shots for his first shutout of the season and 41st overall, leading Ottawa past New York.

Matt Duchene had a goal and an assist, and Drake Batherson and Magnus Paajarvi also scored. Henrik Lundqvist made 31 saves for New York. □

Robots in the field: farms embracing autonomous technology

By KELVIN CHAN

AP Business Writer

EAST MEON, England (AP)

— Faced with seesawing commodity prices and the pressure to be more efficient and environmentally friendly, farmer Jamie Butler is trying out a new worker on his 450-acre farm in England's Hampshire countryside.

Methodically inspecting Butler's winter wheat crop for weeds and pests, the laborer doesn't complain or even break a sweat. That's because it's a four-wheel robot dubbed "Tom" that uses GPS, artificial intelligence and smartphone technology to digitally map the field.

Tom's creator, the Small Robot Company, is part of a wave of "agri-tech" startups working to transform production in a sector that is under economic strain due to market pressures to keep food cheap, a rising global population and the uncertainties of climate change. Most robots are still only being tested, but they offer a glimpse of how automation will spread from manufacturing plants into rural areas.

"If we can keep our costs to an absolute minimum by being on the leading edge of technologies as one



Joe Allnutt, lead roboticist at British startup company the Small Robot Company, inspects a farming robot named Tom as part of a trial in East Meon, southern England, Friday Nov. 30, 2018. Associated Press

method of doing that, then that's a really, really good thing," said Butler, one of 20 British farmers enlisted in a yearlong trial.

Next year, the British startup plans to start testing two more robots controlled by an artificial intelligence system that will work alongside Tom, autonomously doing precision "seeding, feeding and weeding."

The aim is to drastically cut down on fertilizer and pesticide use to lower costs and boost profits for struggling

farmers. As such, it not only helps economically, but it also lowers the environmental impact of farming.

"What we're doing is stuff that people can't do," said Ben Scott-Robinson, co-founder of the Small Robot Company. "It's not physically possible for a farmer to go round and check each individual plant and then treat that plant individually. That's only possible when you have something as tireless as a robot and as focused and accurate as

an AI to be able to achieve that."

Commercial sales of the full, multi-robot system is still years away, with larger-scale testing planned for 2021. They represent the next step in the evolution of automation for farms. Self-driving tractors and robotic milking machines have been in use for years and, more recently, unmanned aerial drones that monitor crops have gone into service.

Eventually, farms "will be

able to automate virtually everything," said Tim Chambers, a fruit farmer who's not involved in the trial. Some jobs are harder to automate, such as harvesting delicate raspberries or strawberries by hand, but even that is coming, said Chambers, a member of Britain's National Farmers Union.

Florida's Harvest Croo Robotics, Spain's Agrobot, Britain's Dogtooth Technologies and Belgium's Octinion are all developing berry-picking bots. California startup Iron Ox and Japan's Spread grow vegetables in automated indoor farms. Bosch startup Deepfield Robotics is working on a weeding robot that punches them into the ground. Last year, British researchers planted, monitored, tended and harvested a barley crop using only autonomous machines, in what they said was a world first.

A more fundamental problem "will be the cost of building those robots and the research that has to go into making them," Chambers said. The low cost of air freight could still make it cheaper to, for example, fly in fruit from other countries where labor is cheaper, he said. □

To encourage more use, Instagram to allow sharing with fewer

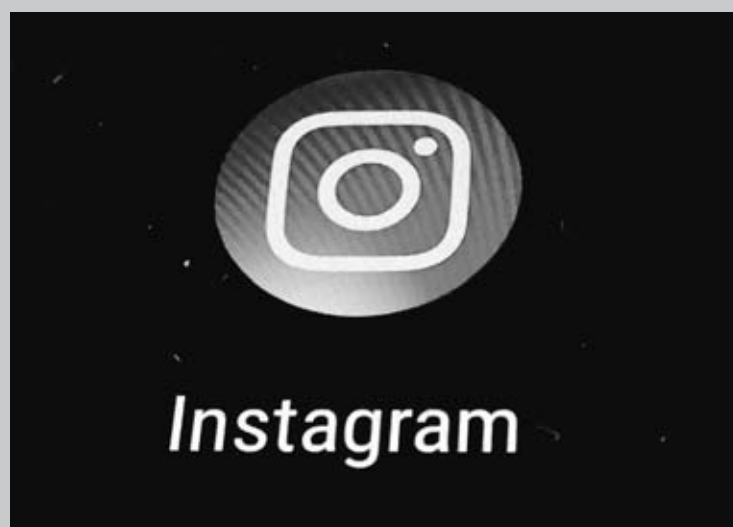
By BARBARA ORTUTAY

AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Keep your friends close ... and your close friends closer? Instagram is adding a feature to make it easier to share photos and videos with fewer folks.

Called Close Friends, the new feature lets users share Stories — photos and videos that disappear after 24 hours — with people they put on a special list. The idea is people may feel more comfortable sharing some things with just close friends, rather than all followers.

Regular posts would still appear to everyone, though users have the option of pre-approving fol-



In this Thursday, Nov. 29, 2018, photo, the Instagram app logo is displayed on a mobile screen in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

lowers. Facebook already lets people narrow audiences for individual posts, but the Facebook-owned

Instagram hasn't. Social-media companies are quickly learning that bigger audience sizes for

users can mean a reluctance to share more personal stuff. So, they are adding ways to communicate with smaller groups. This is why Facebook is beefing up its Groups feature, and why messaging apps are so popular.

Robby Stein, product director at Instagram, said the feature took more than a year to complete. It starts rolling out to users Friday.

To use it, first create a list of close friends by going to your profile and tapping the icon with three horizontal lines. Instagram will suggest people to add based on how often you interact with them, or you can pick your own.

Once that's done, you can create a story just for those people. Friends aren't notified when you add them to the list, or if you remove them later, and they can't request to be added. But they'll eventually know: Stories they get this way will have a green circle around them, rather than the usual pink.

You can create just one Close Friends group, though, rather than separate ones for families, friends and other circles, as you can on the main Facebook service. Stein said Instagram wanted to keep things simple and observed that when there are multiple lists, people don't tend to use them. □

US stocks are mixed before Trump-Xi trade meeting

By MARLEY JAY
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Stocks are wavering Friday ahead of the highly anticipated trade meeting between President Donald Trump and President Xi Jinping of China. Investors have long hoped the two will use their meeting at the Group of 20 summit to start resolving the trade dispute between the two countries.

Tech and health care companies are making small gains while internet companies are down. Energy stocks slipped as crude oil briefly dropped under \$50 a barrel for the first time since October 2017.

KEEPING SCORE: The S&P 500 index added 10 points, or 0.4 percent, to 2,748 at 1:49 p.m. Eastern time. The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 43 points, or 0.2 percent, to 25,387. The Nasdaq composite rose 24 points, or 0.3 percent, to 7,298. The Russell 2000 index of smaller-company stocks was little changed at 1,525. More stocks fell than rose on the New York Stock Exchange.

Stocks have rallied this week after falling to a six-month low last Friday. The S&P 500 is up 1.1 percent this month, but it's still 6.5 percent away from the all-time high it set in late September. Among other issues, that drop reflects investors' pessimism that the U.S. and China will resolve their differences without causing damage to the global economy.

The two sides have been sparring for months over



In this Nov. 20, 2018, file photo pedestrians walk past the New York Stock Exchange.

Associated Press

technology policy and other trade issues. The U.S. has announced tariffs on \$250 billion in Chinese imports so far, with the tax rate on many products set to rise Jan. 1, while China put new taxes on \$110 billion in U.S. goods. Wall Street is concerned that the lingering questions about tariffs and other trade issues will keep businesses from spending money.

THE LEADERS: Health care companies climbed. Biotech drugmaker AbbVie rose 3.3 percent to \$92.84 after it said Pfizer agreed to wait until November 2023 before it starts selling a generic version of AbbVie's inflammatory disease drug Humira in the U.S. The agreement is part of a licensing deal between the companies. Humira is the

biggest-selling drug in the world by revenue, and it's responsible for about two-thirds of AbbVie's total sales.

Other biotech drugmakers also traded higher. Gilead Sciences rallied 2.9 percent to \$71.71 and Amgen rose 2.2 percent to \$206.80.

UNWANTED GUESTS: Marriott said the information of as many as 500 million guests at Starwood hotels has been compromised by a data breach that started in 2014 and September 2018. The company said the credit card information of some guests may have been taken, along with other personal details. The affected brands include W Hotels, St. Regis, Sheraton, Westin, Element, Aloft, The Luxury Collection, Le Méridien and Four Points.

The Attorney General of New York said she is opening an investigation into the breach. Marriott stock lost 6.1 percent to \$114.44.

ENERGY: Benchmark U.S. crude fell more than 3 percent in morning trading and briefly slipped below \$50 a barrel. Later it was down 0.2 percent to \$51.34 a barrel in New York. Brent crude lost 0.3 percent to \$59.71 a barrel in London.

U.S. crude has nosedived 21.5 percent this month, its biggest loss in a decade. Oil prices have been falling since early October as supplies have built up, partly because the U.S. agreed to hold off on sanctions for countries that import oil from Iran. Investors are also worried that a slowdown in global economic growth will reduce demand for fu-

els.

TESTING, TESTING: Medical lab company LabCorp skidded 10.4 percent to \$145.04 after cutting its profit and sales forecasts. On Thursday LabCorp fell 2 percent and rival Quest Diagnostics dropped 9.3 percent after Quest did the same, saying testing volumes were down. Quest rose 0.3 percent to \$88.21 Friday.

GAME OVER: Video game retailer GameStop skidded 7.7 percent to \$13.51 after it cut its annual profit and sales forecasts. The company said some key titles didn't sell as well as it hoped, and promotions and sales of used games weren't as strong as expected.

BONDS: Bond prices rose further. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note fell to 3.01 percent from 3.03 percent.

CURRENCIES: The dollar rose to 113.66 yen from 113.43 yen. The euro fell to \$1.1310 from \$1.1389.

METALS: Gold lost 0.4 percent to \$1,226 an ounce. Silver fell 1.3 percent to \$14.22 an ounce. Copper held steady at \$2.79 a pound.

OVERSEAS: The FTSE 100 index in Britain shed 0.8 percent and Germany's DAX lost 0.4 percent. France's CAC 40 fell less than 0.1 percent.

Japan's Nikkei 225 index climbed 0.4 percent and the Hang Seng in Hong Kong added 0.2 percent. South Korea's Kospi fell 0.8 percent. □

Vatican enters European bank system in new sign of progress

By NICOLE WINFIELD
Associated Press

VATICAN CITY (AP) — The Vatican has made more progress in its path to greater financial transparency by securing approval to join the European banking system that harmonizes electronic payments across the continent. With the endorsement of the European Council, the

Vatican City State and Holy See are now included in the Single Euro Payments Area, known as SEPA. That allows the Vatican bank to have its own IBAN code — the unique numerical identifier that facilitates wire transfers between banks. For the religious orders, Vatican embassies, employees and diplomats who are clients of the Vati-

can's Institute for Religious Works and have weathered years of scandal and reform, the development means faster and cheaper transactions.

The approval by the European Payments Council to bring the Vatican into the SEPA zone, announced Friday by the Vatican, amounts to something of a vote of confidence by a

Europe that has long been suspicious of the Holy See's murky finances and its reputation as an offshore tax haven.

Tommaso Di Ruzza, director of the Vatican's financial watchdog agency, said the Vatican's entrance into SEPA was "a step forward" that consolidates progress made over the past several years. □



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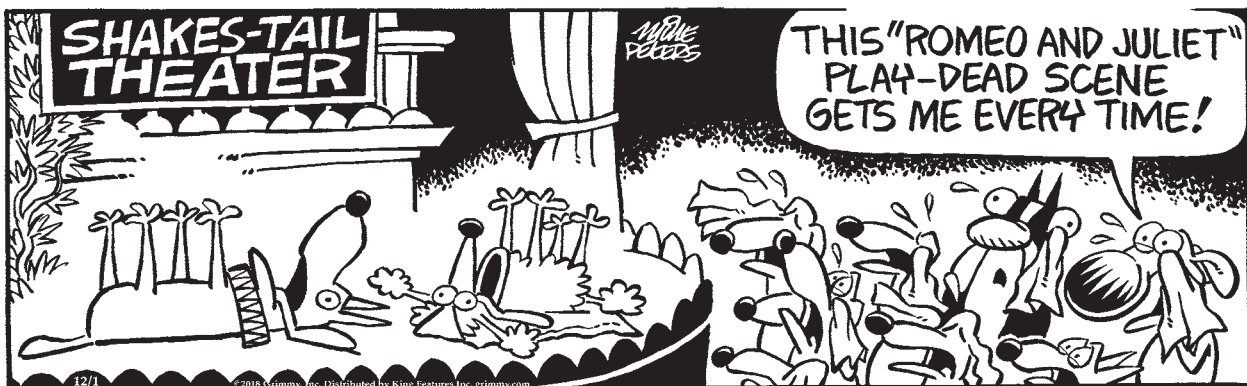
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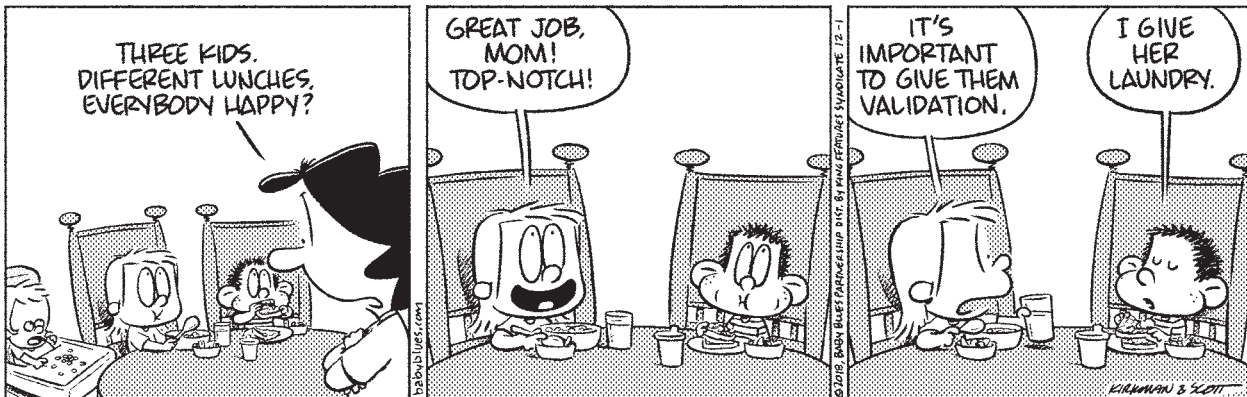
Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

							7	
		9		6			5	2
	4	8		7		9		
			9					
	1	6				5	4	
					2			
		3		2		8	6	
9	5			4		2		
	6							

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

12/01

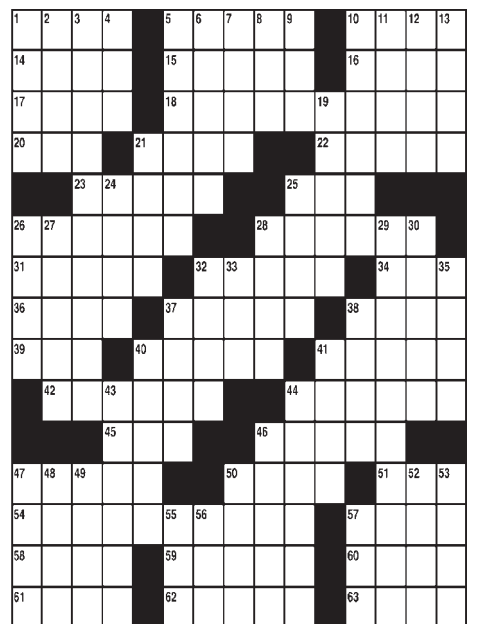
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

6	8	7	4	9	1	5	2	3
9	3	1	6	2	5	7	8	4
5	4	2	3	7	8	6	1	9
3	6	8	7	1	4	9	5	2
1	2	4	9	5	3	8	6	7
7	5	9	8	6	2	4	3	1
2	1	6	5	4	7	3	9	8
8	7	5	2	3	9	1	4	6
4	9	3	1	8	6	2	7	5

ACROSS

- Da Vinci's "Lisa"
- Panama hat material
- Curved overhead beam
- On own; independent
- Bakery passer's delight
- Kauai feast
- TV crime drama series
- Time for collecting a pension
- Small barrel
- Mates for stags
- Prescribed amounts
- Basset long-eared dog
- Fleur-de-
- Flowing back
- Hugo, for one
- Without companions
- Item in a package of bedding
- "-a-dub-dub, three men in a tub..."
- Largest county in Ireland
- Drive too fast
- Eat
- Actor Linden
- Winner
- Finger or toe
- Powerful & wealthy man
- Yacht dock
- Color
- Expand
- "Train"; western of old TV
- Without
- Ulna's place
- Painkiller
- Sheet of ice on the sea
- Dunce cap's shape
- Kicking's partner, in phrase
- Shade trees
- Plow pullers
- Worn out
- Facial features



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

12/1/18

DOWN

- Abbey resident
- more; again
- Friendly
- Beast of burden
- Wraparound garment
- Cornered
- Decays
- French friend
- Simple card game
- Just about
- French streets
- Walking stick
- Shacks
- Royal decree
- Sand mound
- Pig's comment
- Fibbed
- Apiece
- Swell
- No. 2
- At the beginning
- Altercation
- Reach across
- and haw
- Alpha's follower
- Sneaker or moccasin

Friday's Puzzle Solved

CHIP	SLAV	ACTS
LONER	HONE	BOOT
ABATE	ALONGSIDE	
DOC	CAL	ERENOW
CEASE	RAN	
SLUMPS	TACTIC	
NORMS	ROUTE	NAP
AWAY	LUNGE	MEMO
GET TO GAS	REVEL	
RELAYS	SENILE	
AMA	REBUT	
SHOVEL	EAU	AOL
LOUISIANA	FAUL	
ARTS	SHOP	FILES
MASH	TAPS	LEOS

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12/1/18

- Urgent
- European noble
- Fathers
- Was; got the nod
- Ground (beef)
- Forgo voluntarily
- City in Texas
- As strong as
- Trait transmitter
- Mix with a spoon
- European capital city
- Disarray
- Sombrero
- Actor
- Marienthal
- Charge



In this photo released by New Zealand Department of Conservation, the department's workers clear perished pilot whales after a stranding in Owenga, Chatham Islands, New Zealand, Friday, Nov. 30, 2018.

Associated Press

51 pilot whales die in another mass stranding in New Zealand

By NICK PERRY
Associated Press

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP) — Fifty-one pilot whales died Friday in a mass stranding in New Zealand, less than a week after 145 pilot whales and nine pygmy killer whales perished in two other unrelated strandings. In the latest stranding, up to 90 pilot whales beached themselves late Thursday at Hanson Bay on the remote Chatham Islands, said the Department of Conservation. When staff arrived, they found up to 40 of the whales had refloated themselves but another 50 had died on the beach. The department said one beached whale remained alive, which staff decided to euthanize due to its poor condition. The Chatham Islands are about 800 kilometers (500 miles) east of New Zealand's main islands and are home to about 600 people. Last weekend, 145 pilot whales died on Stewart Island. By the time conservation workers arrived there, about 75 of the whales were already dead and they decided to euthanize the others by shooting them due to their poor condition and the remote location. On Sunday, 10 pygmy killer whales were found stranded at Ninety Mile Beach on the North Island. □



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Repeat outbreaks pressure produce industry to step up safety

By CANDICE CHOI

AP Food & Health Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — After repeated food poisoning outbreaks linked to romaine lettuce, the produce industry is confronting the failure of its own safety measures in preventing contaminations.

The E. coli outbreak announced just before Thanksgiving follows one in the spring that sickened more than 200 people and killed five, and another last year that sickened 25 and killed one. No deaths have been reported in the latest outbreak, but the dozens of illnesses highlight the challenge of eliminating risk for vegetables grown in open fields and eaten raw, the role of nearby cattle operations that produce huge volumes of manure and the delay of stricter federal food safety regulations.

A contested aspect of the regulation, for example, would require testing irrigation water for E. coli. The Food and Drug Administration put the measure on hold when the produce industry said such tests wouldn't necessarily help prevent outbreaks. Additional regulations on sanitation for workers and equipment — other potential sources of contamination — only recently started being implemented.

FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb said he thinks the combination of rules, once fully in place, will make vegetables safer to eat.

"I don't think any one element of this is going to be the magic bullet," Gottlieb said.

Health officials say improved detection may make outbreaks seem more frequent. Still, that is intensifying pressure on growers and regulators to



In this Nov. 20, 2018 file photo, romaine lettuce sits on the shelves as a shopper walks through the produce area of an Albertsons market in Simi Valley, Calif.

prevent, catch and contain contamination.

PREVENTION

It's not yet known how romaine got contaminated in the latest outbreak.

The spring outbreak was traced to romaine from Yuma, Arizona. Irrigation water tainted with manure was identified as a likely culprit, and investigators noted the presence of a large animal feeding operation nearby.

Subsequently, an industry agreement in Arizona and California was adjusted to expand buffer zones between vegetable fields and livestock. The industry says the change was in place for lettuce now being grown in Yuma, which hasn't been implicated in the latest outbreak. But Trevor Suslow of the Produce Marketing Association said there isn't consensus about the exact distances that might effectively prevent contamination.

He noted specific buffer zones aren't required by

the new federal rules on produce safety.

"They look to the industry to determine what is the appropriate distance," Suslow said.

Growers in Yuma also started treating irrigation water that would touch plant leaves with chlorine to kill potential contaminants, Suslow said. But he said such treatment raises concerns about soil and human health.

Meanwhile, the proximity of produce fields to cattle operations is likely to continue posing a problem. Travis Forgues of the milk producer Organic Valley noted consolidation in the dairy industry is leading to bigger livestock operations that produce massive volumes of manure.

TESTING

Already, the industry agreement in Arizona and California requires leafy green growers to test water for generic E. coli.

But James Rogers, director of food safety research

at Consumer Reports, said it's important to make water testing a federal requirement. Since romaine is often chopped up and bagged, a single contaminated batch from one farm that skips testing could make a lot of people sick, he said.

Teressa Lopez of the Arizona Leafy Greens Marketing Agreement also said federal regulation can ensure greater compliance, even though the industry agreement has stricter measures. Despite industry measures implemented after a spinach outbreak more than a decade ago, health officials noted this month there have been 28 E. coli outbreaks linked to leafy greens since 2009.

The produce industry says the failure to prevent the Yuma outbreak could also reflect the limitations of testing water for generic E. coli.

Elizabeth Bihn, a food science expert at Cornell University, said the tests

look for the amount of fecal matter in water. The problem is, "some feces has pathogens in it, some feces doesn't," said Bihn, who is part of a federal program helping farmers comply with the new produce regulations.

Testing for specific E. coli strains that are harmful is more difficult, and it doesn't rule out the possibility of other harmful bacteria, Bihn said.

CONTAINING

Whole-genome sequencing is making it easier to detect outbreaks, which is pressuring the produce industry.

The FDA warned against all romaine last week because it said it was able to identify it as a likely source early enough. The agency narrowed its warning to romaine from California's Central Coast after the produce industry agreed to label romaine with harvest dates and regions, so people know what's OK to eat. The labeling is voluntary, and the industry said it will evaluate whether to extend it to other leafy greens. Gottlieb said improving traceability would allow targeted health alerts that don't hurt the entire industry. The FDA recently hired a former Walmart executive who used blockchain technology to improve traceability in the retailer's supply chain.

Stephen Basore, director of food safety at a Florida romaine grower, said he expects more regulations and self-imposed industry guidelines.

"Anytime there is an issue, the immediate response is saying our protocols aren't enough," he said. □

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Film on Roger Ailes looks at creator of 'outrage factory'

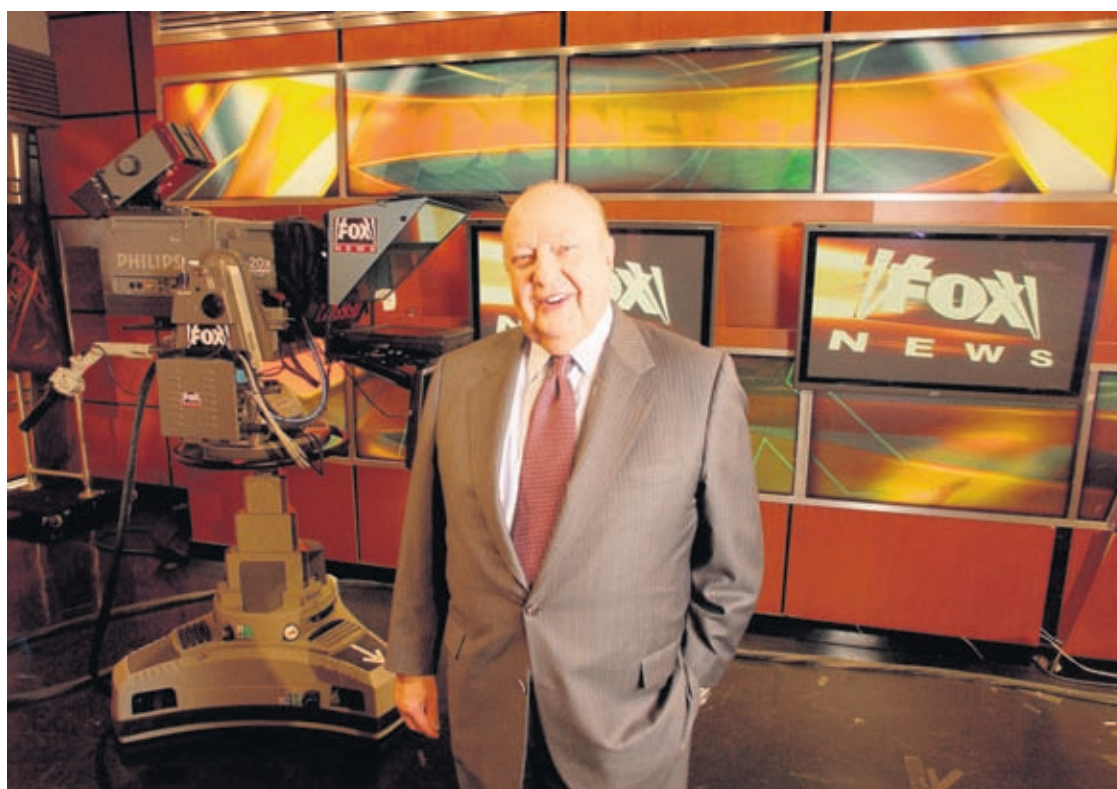
By JOHN CARUCCI

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Roger Ailes might not always have been a household name during his time at Fox News, but many media commentators believe he changed the TV landscape forever. As the architect of the conservative cable news channel, Ailes created a beacon for what he deemed as an underserved news market.

Now the world that Ailes created is the subject of a new documentary, "Divide and Conquer: The Story of Roger Ailes." Directed by Alexis Bloom, the film deconstructs the rise and fall of the late head of Fox News Channel. It opens in theaters on Dec. 7, as well as VOD, Apple iTunes, and Amazon streaming services.

"To be honest with you most of the time that I told people I was working on a film about Roger Ailes, people didn't know who he was. I think people in media really knew who he was, be-



In this Sept. 29, 2006 file photo, Fox News CEO Roger Ailes poses at Fox News in New York.

Associated Press

cause he made such a big impact," Bloom said.

The general public, however, probably knows him more for the swift turn of events that led to his ouster. Ailes was brought down by a plethora of sexual ha-

rassment lawsuits, both directly and indirectly related to him.

Bloom goes beyond the scandals, breaking down how the onetime Fox News chairman built a dynasty by delivering content to

a conservative audience and marketing it as "fair and balanced" news.

"I think Roger Ailes has changed our political landscape enormously, going back from 1968. He absolutely kind of took show

business and politics and kind of fused them in a way nobody else had before," Bloom said. "He worked in television. He worked in entertainment, and then he worked for a long time in politics, and he was the first one to connect them."

The film's executive producer, Alex Gibney, said that confluence of disciplines was the "secret sauce" that helped create the news channel's message and draw.

"He made it so much more about tribalism, and in a funny way, entertainment. He saw the 'virtue' — I say virtue in quotes — in treating everything as combat. That didn't generate much light, but it generated a lot of heat, which attracted a lot of viewers coming in from the cold," Gibney said. Gibney, who won an Oscar for his documentary, "Taxi to the Darkside," said that Ailes ruled the news organization with an iron fist because he never wanted his audience to lose the message. □

'Avengers' director says Evans' Cap days may not be over

By MARCELA ISAZA

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Chris Evans suggested his run as Captain America is done. The filmmakers currently controlling the Avengers' fates say he shouldn't shelve the shield just yet. Evans tweeted last month that he had wrapped his shooting on the fourth "Avengers" movie, calling it an "emotional" day and saying, "Playing this role over the last eight years has been an honor."

Joseph Russo, who along with brother Anthony wrote and directed this year's "Avengers: Infinity War" and next year's sequel, and directed Evans as Captain America in two previous films, told The Associated Press "I think it was more emotional for him than us. Only because he's not done yet. And I don't want explain what that means but the audience



This file photo provided by Disney/Marvel shows Chris Evans as Captain America/Steve Rogers, in the new film, "Avengers: Age Of Ultron."

Associated Press

will soon understand what I'm talking about."

Russo spoke to the AP re-

cently in an interview promoting Simone, his new restaurant in downtown

Los Angeles.

As expected, he only teased details of the forth-

coming film, saying audiences can expect the unexpected from the duo that left Marvel fans gasping earlier this year in a cliffhanger that saw several beloved Avengers disintegrate into oblivion.

"We killed half the Marvel universe so for us it really is about, in what ways can we surprise the audience and tell a very challenging story," Russo said.

He would confirm that at least at this point the movie, which is in post-production, is the longest Marvel film ever.

"We're about halfway through the editorial process and it's standing about three hours right now. It's a very complicated movie," noted Russo. "It has a lot of characters in it and you know we are putting in the work, so we'll see where it ends up, but it definitely has a lot of story in it." □

TV holiday joy means 'Wonderful Life,' Reba, romance, Santa

By LYNN ELBER

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — In need of a jolt of holiday joy? Or a comforting spot of romance or silliness or spirituality?

Television has you covered. There are classic old movies ("It's a Wonderful Life") and a sleigh full of new wannabes; Christmas carols galore; the majesty of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir; and, for New Year's Eve homebodies, Manhattan's Times Square ball drop among the possibilities.

Here are some of the highlights to consider (all times EST):

MOVIES:

— "The Christmas Chronicles," streaming now on Netflix. A scheme by a sister and brother (Darby Camp, Judah Lewis) to get videotape of Santa (Kurt Russell) in action turns into a wild Christmas Eve. Oliver Hudson and Kimberly Williams-Paisley also star.

— "Christmas at Pemberley Manor," 10 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 8, Hallmark. New York party planner Elizabeth Bennett (Jessica



This image released by Netflix shows Kurt Russell in a scene from "The Christmas Chronicles," currently streaming on Netflix.

Lowndes) finds her plans for a small town's holiday festival threatened by a billionaire (Michael Rady) lacking good cheer. But, shades of Jane Austen, love may save the day.

"Merry Wishmas," 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 2, TV One. A successful businesswoman (Tamela Mann) visits her

South Carolina hometown for a break but becomes enmeshed in local drama. David Mann, Kim Fields and Towanda Braxton co-star.

"Life-Size 2," 9 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 2, Freeform. Francia Raisa ("grown-ish") stars as Grace, the young CEO of a toy maker headed for financial trouble. But help is on the way, from a doll (Tyra Banks) magically brought to life.

— "Holiday Inn," 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 8, Turner Classic Movies. Fred Astaire and Bing Crosby star in this 1942 classic as entertainers who compete in romance.

— "Santa's Boots," 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 8, Lifetime. Holly (Megan Hilty) is trying to rescue her family's department store and solve the mystery of the handsome Santa (Noah Mills) who bolted, leaving only a boot.

— "It's a Wonderful Life," 8 p.m. Monday, Dec. 24, NBC. Jimmy Stewart and Donna Reed star in Frank Capra's 1947 fable about appreciating one's life, whatever path it takes. Lionel Barrymore's Mr. Potter and Henry Travers' Clarence the angel are part of the journey.

STOCKING STUFFERS

— "Great Performances: Irving Berlin's Holiday Inn — The Broadway Musical," 8:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 30, PBS. A stage adaptation

of the 1942 movie features "White Christmas" and more of Berlin's score.

— "A Charlie Brown Christmas," 8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 6, ABC. Charles M. Schulz's timeless crew is back in the 1965 special that finds Charlie Brown confronting the materialism of Christmas with the help of Linus and, less successfully, Lucy.

— "Ken Jeong Cracks Christmas," Wednesday, Dec. 12, BuzzFeed's YouTube channel. The self-labeled holiday fanatic explores holiday pop-culture myths and more with guests Angela Kinsey, Joel McHale and Harry Schum Jr.

— "A Heartland Holiday Feast," 9 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 18, PBS. Renowned chef Lidia Bastianich hits the road to seek holiday inspiration from different cultures and regions.

— "A Home for the Holidays: The 20th Anniversary," 8 p.m., Friday, Dec. 21, CBS. The spotlight is again on adoptions of children in foster care, with families sharing their stories and music stars providing the soundtrack.

— "A Christmas Story Live!" 8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 20, Fox. Maya Rudolph, Matthew Broderick and Jane Krakowski star in this repeat airing of the 2017 TV musical inspired by the 1983 movie and a Broadway production. Andy Walken plays BB-

gun loving Ralphie.

SOUNDS OF THE SEASON

— "CMA Country Christmas," 8 p.m. Monday, Dec. 10, ABC. Host Reba McEntire is joined by Tony Bennett, Brett Eldredge, Amy Grant, Diana Krall, Martina McBride, Brad Paisley, The Isaacs and others, with classic songs and new collaborations part of the two-hour show.

— "Pentatonix: A Not So Silent Night," 10 p.m. Monday, Dec. 10, NBC. The vocal group is joined by Kelly Clarkson, the Backstreet Boys, Maren Morris and Penn & Teller on a musical exploration of Las Vegas.

— "Darci Lynne: My Hometown Christmas," 9 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 11, NBC. Singer-ventriloquist Darci Lynne Farmer, an "America's Got Talent" champion, celebrates the holiday with guests including Kristin Chenoweth, Toby Keith, Hunter Hayes and electronic violinist Lindsey Stirling.

— "Christmas with the Mormon Tabernacle Choir," Monday, Dec. 17, PBS and BYUtv (check local listings). Actress-singer Sutton Foster is the guest artist and Hugh Bonneville ("Downton Abbey") is the narrator for an evening including carols and a reading of the Christmas story from the Book of Luke.

— "Great Performances from Vienna: The New Year's Celebration 2019," 9 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 1, PBS. Bonneville is back as host of this Vienna Philharmonic concert with conductor Christian Thielemann, featuring Strauss family waltzes and the Vienna City Ballet.

AULD LANG SYNE

— "That's Entertainment!" marathon, 8 p.m. Monday, Dec. 31, TCM. Hosts Ben Mankiewicz, Eddie Muller, Alicia Malone and Dave Karger present the trio of films that revisit the MGM studio's glory days.

— "Live from Lincoln Center: New York Philharmonic New Year's Eve with Renee Fleming," 9 p.m. Monday, Dec. 31. The orchestra and opera great Fleming join in a celebration of classical music and dance. □

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The growing pains of being Alessia Cara

By MESFIN FEKADU

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — One day Alessia Cara got a request from a friend: Write a song about my breakup.

"He was like, 'Listen, I'm not a songwriter, I'm not good at writing. Could you maybe one day ... write a song about somebody falling out of love with you?'"

The concept had been in the back of Cara's mind, and when she was in a studio without a topic to write about it, she took a stab at her friend's wish.

Ten minutes later, she birthed "Out of Love," an airy, slow and personally deep song. She called the making of it "one of those weird cosmic things that just happened."

"I played it for my friend and he got very emotional and he was like, 'Thank you!' And he actually got back together with the girl after that song. It's a magic song."

Cara said it was the first song she's written from someone else's perspective. But she said it was easy to pull from her own experiences — and pain — to relate to the song.

You'll be able to hear about her pain — or "pains" — on her new album, from her own breakup to learning how to be happy alone to — simply put — growing up. "I was 18 when I first started in the industry — it's hard



In this Nov. 19, 2018 photo, singer Alessia Cara poses for a portrait in New York. Cara, who won the best new artist Grammy Award this year, releases her sophomore album, "The Pains of Growing," on Friday, Nov. 30.

Associated Press

enough to figure yourself out at that age, but then to figure yourself out in front of many people with so many eyes on you and ears on you is very challenging," the 22-year-old said. "That was causing a lot of strange dissonance within myself. It was making me just really confused."

Cara burst on the music scene in 2015 with the Top 5 hit, "Here." She went on to launch more Top 10 successes with "Scars to Your Beautiful," "Stay" with Zedd and "1-800-273-8255" alongside Logic and Khalid. And her debut album, "Know-It-All," achieved platinum

status.

With all the success comes criticism, and Cara got her fair share of it. When she won the best new artist Grammy earlier this year, some felt she didn't deserve to win over acts like SZA and Khalid. And even this week, the singer took a short break from social media after she posted the nasty comments she has received from people online, including words like "ugly," "fat" and others we won't print here.

But she rose above the hate and returned to social media to celebrate the release of "The Pains

of Growing," out on Friday. The album is all about coming out on top after dealing with hard times.

"The second I wrote 'Growing Pains,'" she said of the album's opening track, "I knew what the premise of the entire album was going to be. I think that's because, honestly, I was going through a lot of different feelings and experiencing many different feelings, a lot of which had to do with some sort of pain. It sounds very dark but it's the truth."

"(It) was my way of finding silver lining ... and reminding myself that every type of pain is something that

we can grow from," she said.

The Canadian artist started writing most of the album before she won the Grammy, so she said that negativity didn't affect her music.

"I was like, 'Thank God, because I don't know how I would have reacted otherwise.' At the same time, I think the backlash about the Grammy just made me want to prove people wrong a bit more," she said. "I want to prove to people and to myself that I deserve to be here."

Warren "Oak" Felder, who produced both of Cara's albums, said he was deeply impressed by the way she tackled her follow-up album.

"I think the first album was such a process of, 'Well, these people want me to do this' and 'the label wants me to do that' and 'this writer wants me to do this' and 'this is the sound that they want me to do,' and here's me trying to incorporate myself into all of this," he said. "And this album was just purely her. Like, 'This is what I wanted it to sound like. This is what I want to talk about it.' She literally wrote every song on the album 100 percent on her own."

"Going from one form to the other, it's like watching someone go Super Saiyan," he added.

Cara's new album expands her sound even more than her debut. You can't put her music in a box if you tried: She goes from positive pop to acoustic singer-songwriter to R&B, sometimes a couple of those sounds in a single song.

She takes on an old-school, doo-wop style on "Comfortable;" she questions where we are in the world on "7 Days;" and she makes a number of pop culture references on the album, namedropping the iconic series "Friends" on "Wherever I Live," and on "Nintendo Game," she references Zelda and sings: "And so we treat love like it's a Nintendo game, but nobody wins." □

Viola Davis to star as Shirley Chisholm in Amazon project

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Oscar-winning actress Viola Davis is gearing up to play groundbreaking politician Shirley Chisholm in a film for Amazon Studios.

The company said Thursday that Davis has signed on to star in and produce the project about Chisholm, who was the first black woman ever elected to the United States Congress and the first woman to seek the Democratic Party's presidential nomination.

She represented New York's 12th District in the House of Representatives from 1969 to 1983, and sought the presidential nomination in 1972. Chisholm died in 2005 at age 80.

Maggie Betts will direct Davis in "The Fighting Shirley Chisholm" off of a screenplay from "Silicon Valley" writer Adam Countee.

The Hollywood trade website Deadline first reported the news. □



This combination photo shows actress Viola Davis, during the Toronto International Film Festival in Toronto on Sept. 9, 2018, left, and Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm, D-N.Y., the first black woman elected to Congress, in 1971.

Associated Press



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